

CREATED BY **JOSS WHEDON**

BELLAIRE LAMBERT GENOLET BACHS CARLINI

Buffy

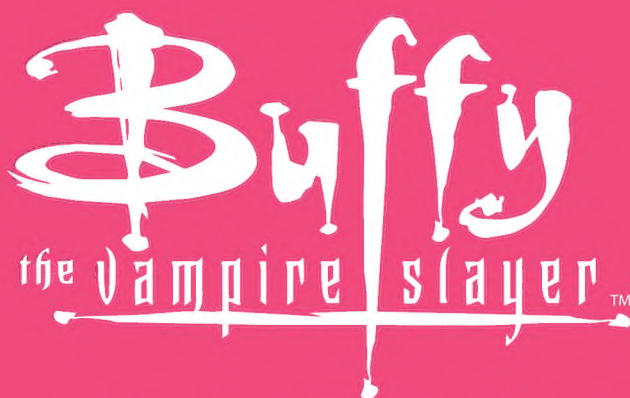
the vampire slayer™



VOLUME SIX **SECRETS OF THE SLAYER**

CREATED BY **JOSS WHEDON**

JORDIE **BELLAIRE** JEREMY **LAMBERT** ANDRÉS **GENOLET**
RAMON **BACHS** ELEONORA **CARLINI**



VOLUME SIX **SECRETS OF THE SLAYER**

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Marie Krupina & Scott Newman

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Jonathan Manning

Editor
Jeanine Schaefer

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Created by

Joss Whedon

Written by

**Jordie Bellaire
& Jeremy Lambert**

Illustrated by

Andrés Genolet (Chapter 21)
Ramon Bachs (Chapter 22)
Eleonora Carlini (Faith)

Colored by

Raúl Angulo
Mattia Iacono (Faith)

Lettered by

Ed Dukeshire
Jim Campbell (Faith)

Cover by

David López

LMK

SHS

CHAPTER

TWENTY-ONE



CLEVELAND, OHIO. 2019.

WHERE
IS SHE?



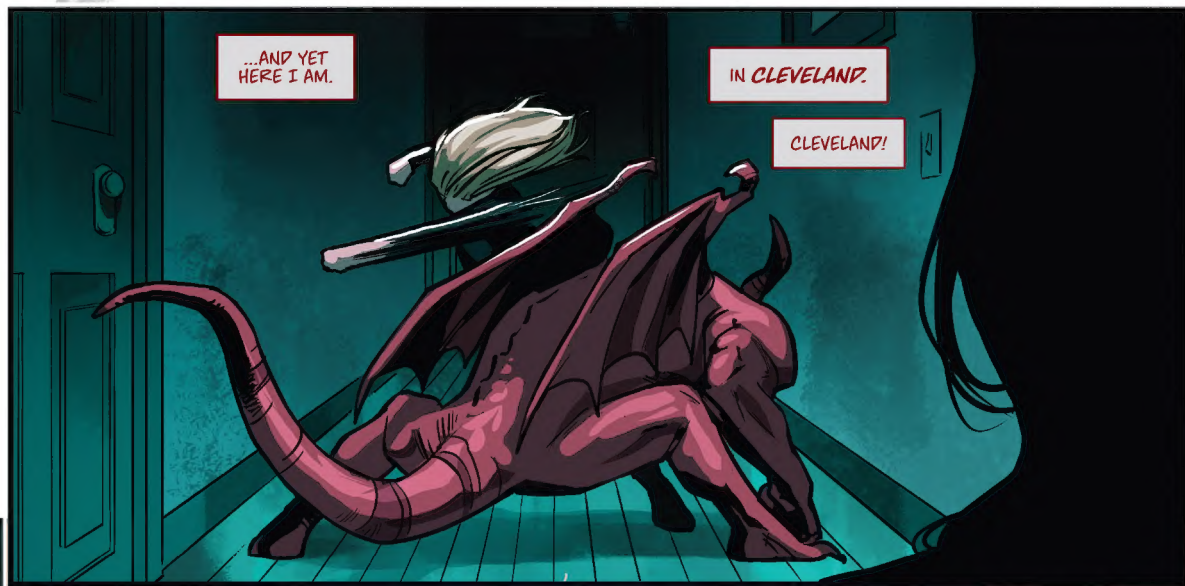
WHOOOLE REASON I'M
IN THIS MESS, TO PUT IT
BLUNTLY, I LIKE TO MOVE
QUICK WITH THIS KINDA
THING. ALL BUSINESS.

NOT SO,
FOR HER.





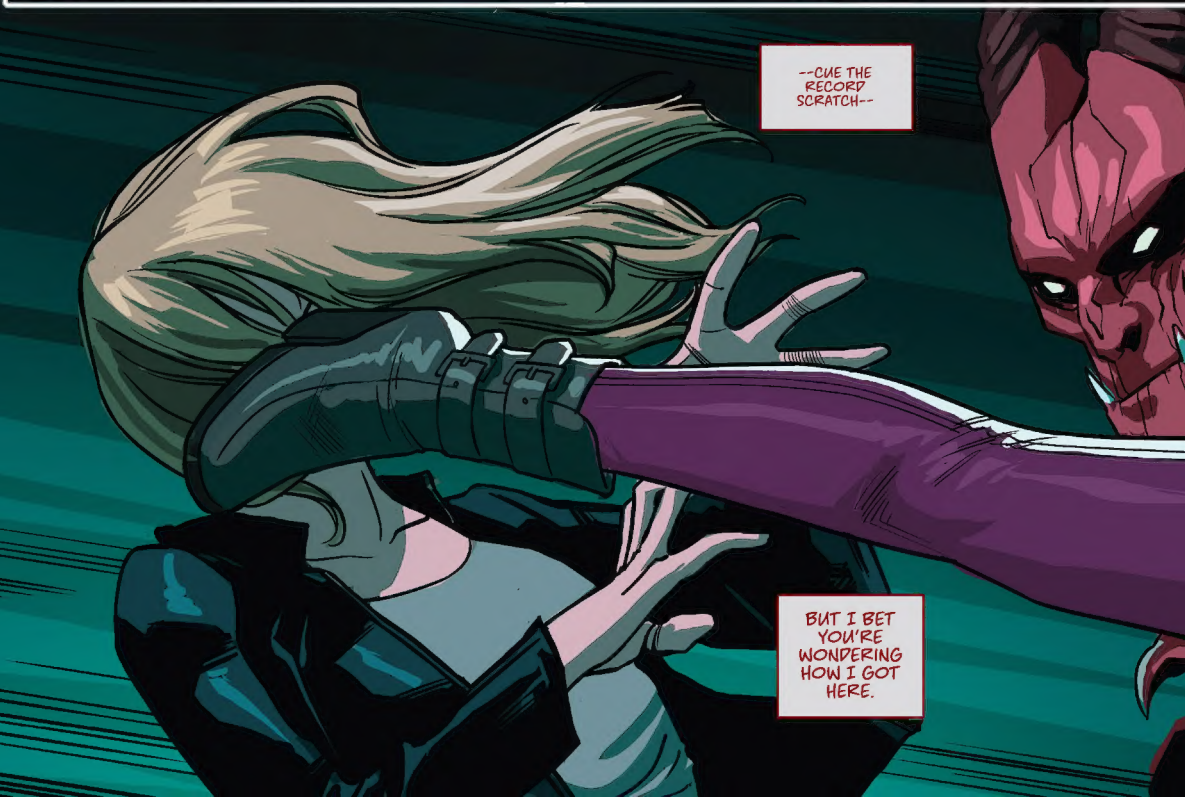
I'M A **LONG-GAME**
KINDA GAL, YOU KNOW?
THIS IS MORE THE...
SHORT GAME STUFF.



...AND YET
HERE I AM.

IN **CLEVELAND**.

CLEVELAND!



--CUE THE
RECORD
SCRATCH--

BUT I BET
YOU'RE
WONDERING
HOW I GOT
HERE.

CENTURIES AGO.

THOUGH...I GUESS
THAT'S SOMEONE ELSE'S
STORY, TOO, ISN'T IT?





MY NAME IS
D'HOFFRYN. I'M
A SHEPHERD WHO
TENDS TO THOSE
ILL-SUITED FOR
NORMALCY.

I KNOW MANY
SHEPHERDS. NONE
OF THEM LOOK
LIKE YOU.



OH!
RIGHT.
THIS OLD
THING.



I'M A DEMON.
RAWR, FIRE AND
BRIMSTONE, I'M
GONNA KILL
EVERYTHING.

HEH. NOT
REALLY. I JUST
HELP OTHER
DEMONS. WHICH
BRINGS ME TO
MY POINT--



YOU GOT A LOT OF POWER, KID. AND
MORE IMPORTANTLY, INGENUITY. CAUSE
LEMMIE TELL YOU, THOUSANDS OF YEARS
OF THE **SAME OL' SAME OL'** WEARS
ON YOU. BUT YOUR POWER'S RAW.
UNWIELDY.

AH. LIKE THE
NEWBORN HARES IN
THE ANNUAL BUNNY
RACES.

WHAT?



THE LITTLE ONES FULL OF
ZIP AND ZAZZLE. THEY ARE
TOO EXCITABLE AND THUS
NEVER WIN. NEED TO HONE
THEIR SKILLS.

...SOMETHING LIKE
THAT. SO...YES. YOU
HAVE TOO MUCH ZIP
AND ZAZZLE. LIKE A
ROOKIE HITTING
THE MAJORS.



A WHAT?

NEVERMIND, LISTEN--WANNA LIVE FOREVER? HELP THE DOWNTROPPEN OF THE WORLD TIP THE UNJUST SCALES AS A DEMON OF VENGEANCE? I MEAN, THE JOB TITLE IS **PATRON SAINT OF THE WOMEN SCORNE**, BUT, YOU KNOW, FORMALITIES.

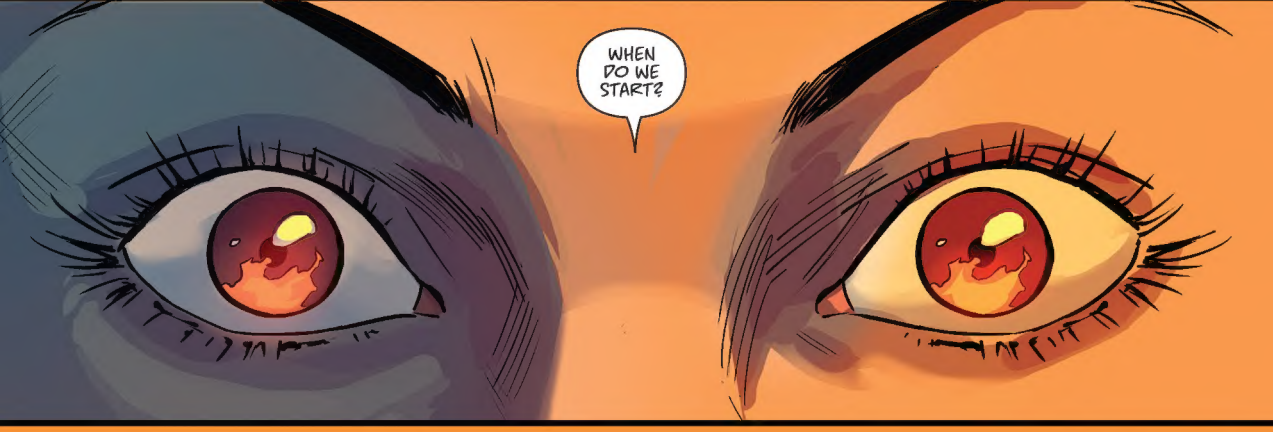
YOU'D GIVE UP YOUR HUMANITY. BUT THAT'S A SMALL PRICE TO PAY TO REALLY LET THOSE TALENTS FLOURISH, IF YOU ASK ME.



SO MY JOB WOULD BE TO KILL MORE MEN?



FOR SURE. I MEAN, NOT EXCLUSIVELY. BUT IT'S SAFE TO SAY THAT'S KINPA THEIR THING, THE DOWNTROPPING--



WHEN DO WE START?

**LONDON, ENGLAND.
A CENTURY LATER.**

I'M
WHAT?

We Are The Light In The Shadow

DIFFICULT.
BEYOND DIFFICULT.
FRANKLY, NOW, THE
WATCHER'S COUNCIL,
UNANIMOUSLY, HAS
OFFICIALLY CONDEMNED
YOUR BEHAVIOR AS
REBELLIOUS AND
OUT OF LINE.

IT WOULD
HAVE MEANT
THE DEATH OF
MY SLAYER. I SAID NO. END
OF STORY.

YOU NEVER
DID LEARN TO FALL
IN LINE. THAT IS NOT,
AND HAS NEVER BEEN,
YOUR DECISION
TO MAKE.

THIS IS
HARDLY THE
FIRST SUCH
OCCURRENCE.
TO THAT
END--



**CLEVELAND, OHIO.
A FEW MORE
CENTURIES LATER.**

BUT THAT'S
=MPF= THE THING...
Y'KNOW? I USED
TO BE ABLE TO DO
THAT. BUT HOW
THE HELL CAN I
TRUST...ANYONE
ANYMORE?

OOF,
DO I HEAR
THAT. HOW'S IT
GOING IN
THERE?

UM.
WELL...

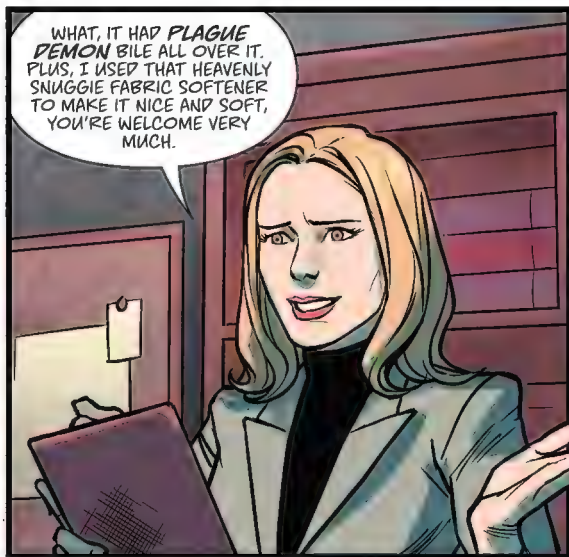
AW
C'MON OUT,
LET'S SEE
IT.

I DON'T
THINK IT'S
GONNA
WORK.

MORGAN
PALMER, THAT'S
**ONE HUNDRED
PERCENT** HIDE OF
CERBERUS. IT'LL
WORK, ALRIGHT. LAST
SERVED DURING THE
BATTLE OF--

HUH.
MUST'VE
SHRUNK IN
THE WASH.

ARE ANCIENT
ARTIFACTS EVEN
WASHABLE?

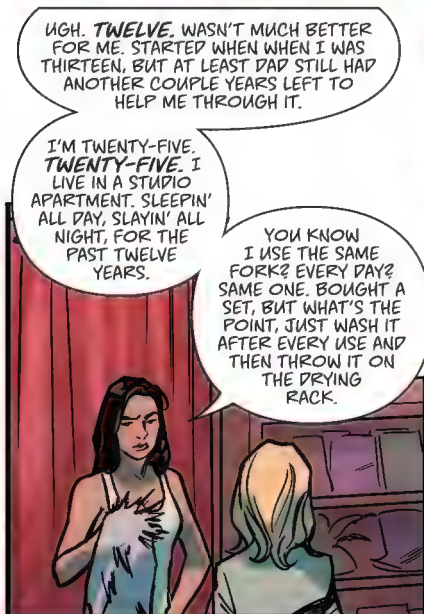


WHAT, IT HAD **PLAGUE DEMON** BILE ALL OVER IT. PLUS, I USED THAT HEAVENLY SNUGGLE FABRIC SOFTENER TO MAKE IT NICE AND SOFT, YOU'RE WELCOME VERY MUCH.

MAYBE WE COULD TURN IT INTO A SHIELD...OR SOMETHING I COULD ~~UMPFF~~ AGH, WAS THIS MADE FOR A LITTLE GIRL?!

ACTUALLY, **YES**. WELL, A TWELVE YEAR OLD, BUT YEAH. SOMEHOW SURVIVED THE BATTLE, BUT NOT WHAT HAPPENED AFTER.

NO HIDE CAN SAVE YOU FROM YOURSELF. EVEN ONE FROM SO MIGHTY A BEAST AS CERBERUS.



UGH. **TWELVE**. WASN'T MUCH BETTER FOR ME. STARTED WHEN WHEN I WAS THIRTEEN, BUT AT LEAST DAD STILL HAD ANOTHER COUPLE YEARS LEFT TO HELP ME THROUGH IT.

I'M TWENTY-FIVE. **TWENTY-FIVE**. I LIVE IN A STUDIO APARTMENT. SLEEPIN' ALL DAY, SLAYIN' ALL NIGHT, FOR THE PAST TWELVE YEARS.

YOU KNOW I USE THE SAME FORK? EVERY DAY? SAME ONE. BOUGHT A SET, BUT WHAT'S THE POINT, JUST WASH IT AFTER EVERY USE AND THEN THROW IT ON THE DRYING RACK.



USE, RINSE, REPEAT. JUST LIKE HOW THE COUNCIL FEELS ABOUT EVERY SLAYER SINCE THE DAWN OF TIME. ABOUT **ME**.

I HAVE **NOTHING**. I CAN LOOK FORWARD TO **NOTHING**. WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO? NO FRIENDS. NO FUTURE. AND NOW THEY WANT TO...WANT TO...

MORGAN. NO ONE'S EVER LASTED THIS LONG--

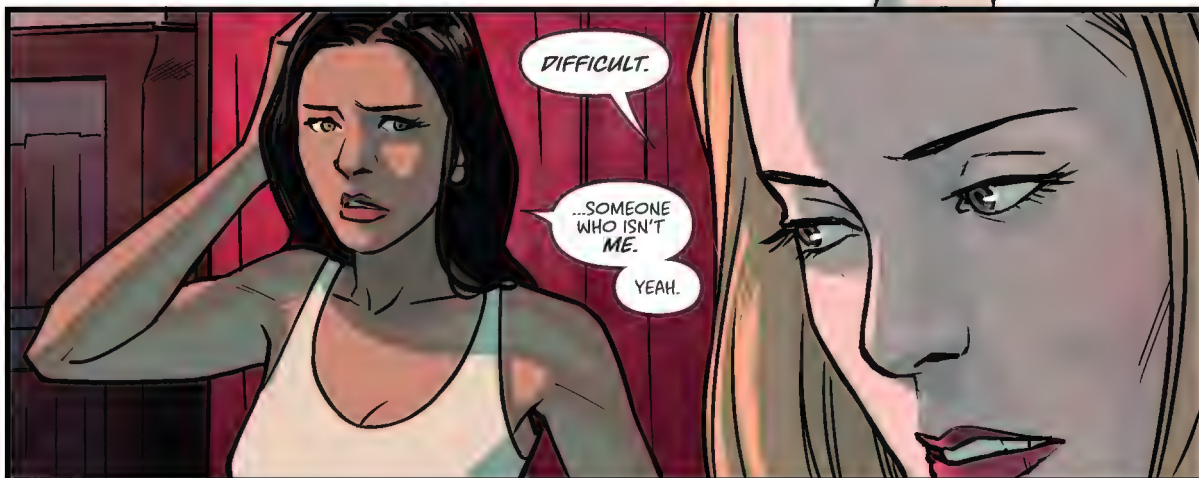
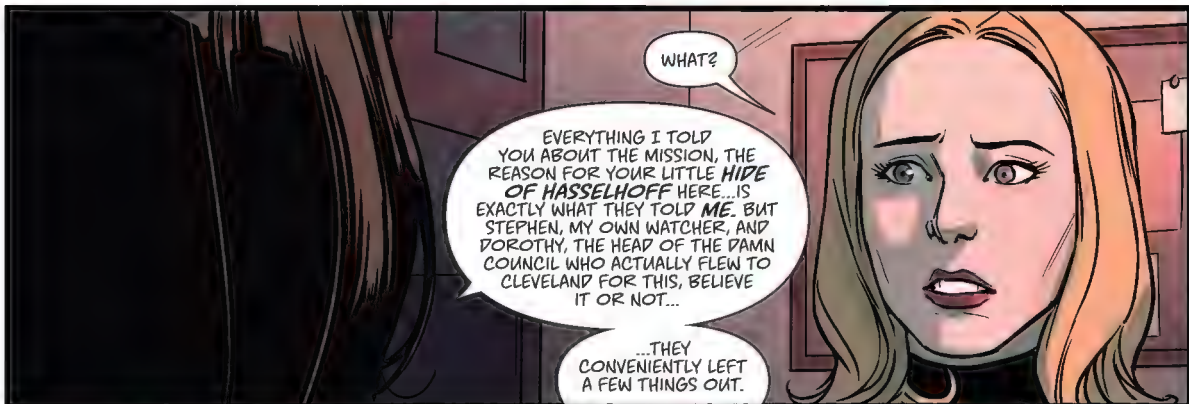
AND ISN'T THERE SOMETHING **WRONG** WITH THAT?! DOESN'T THAT TERRIFY YOU? BECAUSE IT SCARES THE HELL OUT OF ME EVERY SINGLE DAY!



WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY IS, NO ONE KNOWS WHAT'S NEXT--

YEAH, WELL, I **DO!**

...AND THAT'S **REALLY** WHY I'M HERE.





AND YOUR WATCHER, STEPHEN, HE JUST...

A HUNDRED KNIVES IN MY BACK OVER THE YEARS BUT THIS ONE'S THE BIGGEST. AND FROM MY **WATCHER**, ANYA. WE NEVER GOT ALONG, BUT THIS IS...THIS IS MONSTROUS.

I'VE BEEN READING THROUGH THE HISTORIES. I'VE BEEN READING UP TO TRY AND FIGURE OUT IF ANY SLAYER, IF **ANYONE** ELSE WAS ABLE TO GET OUT OF--



DING

EVENING! HEY, DO YOU GUYS DO GIFT CARDS OR--

SHOP'S CLOSED, DEREK, GO AWAY!



SORRY. GO ON. DID YOU FIND ANYTHING?

NO. BUT I DID SEE A NAME IN THE SLAYER HISTORIES I DIDN'T EXPECT. **YOUR** NAME. THE LAST WOMAN TO BE A WATCHER. AFTER YOU, THEY NEVER ASSIGNED WOMEN TO SLAYERS. TOO "EMOTIONALLY INVOLVED"

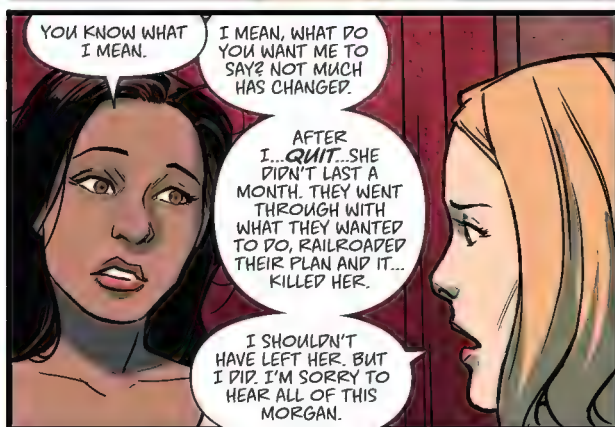


AH. LOOK, I GOT OUT OF ALL THIS FOR A REASON. I'M THE FLOATY, NEUTRAL, SHOPOWNER WITH THE MAGIC STORE NOW, THAT'S MY JOY.

I'M EVERYONE'S **ACQUAINTANCE** AND NO ONE'S **FRIEND** FOR A REASON THESE DAYS, MORGAN.

BUT WHAT HAPPENED TO HER? ISABELLE?

THOUGHT THAT WOULD BE OBVIOUS WITH YOU STANDING HERE AND ALL.

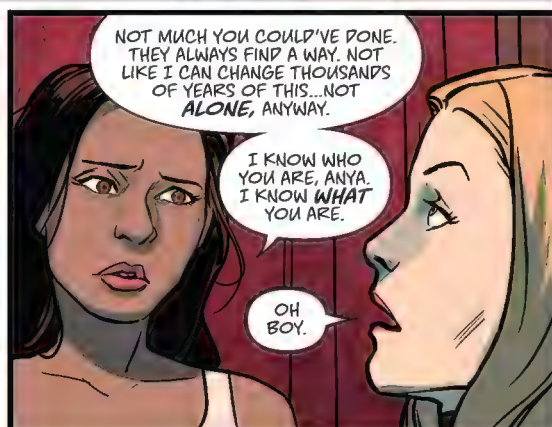


YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN.

I MEAN, WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO SAY? NOT MUCH HAS CHANGED.

AFTER I...**QUIT**...SHE DIDN'T LAST A MONTH. THEY WENT THROUGH WITH WHAT THEY WANTED TO DO, RAILROADED THEIR PLAN AND IT... **KILLED HER.**

I SHOULDN'T HAVE LEFT HER. BUT I DID. I'M SORRY TO HEAR ALL OF THIS MORGAN.



NOT MUCH YOU COULD'VE DONE. THEY ALWAYS FIND A WAY. NOT LIKE I CAN CHANGE THOUSANDS OF YEARS OF THIS...NOT **ALONE**, ANYWAY.

I KNOW WHO YOU ARE, ANYA. I KNOW **WHAT** YOU ARE.

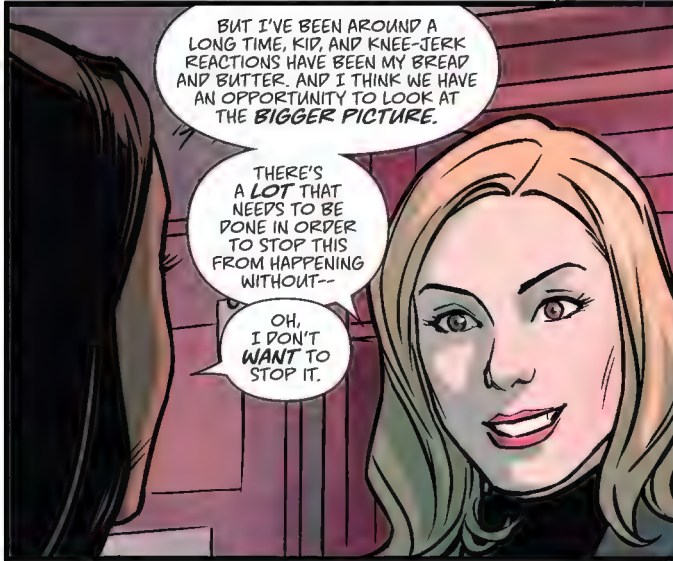
OH BOY.



LOOK, THE THING ABOUT A WISH IS YOU'VE GOTTA **MEAN** IT. IT'S GOTTA BE BACKED UP BY SOME SERIOUS EMOTION OR ELSE IT'S GOT NO EFFECT ON ME.

LIKE, THE MORE EMOTION, THE MORE WEAPONS IN MY ARSENAL, YOU KNOW? AND YOU GOT THAT IN SPADES. YOU GOT THE F'S. FRESH. FIERY. FOCUSED. AND I **LOVE** IT.

HOWEVER YOU END THAT SENTENCE IS HOW IT'S GONNA GO.



LATER.



"...AND I DON'T
HAVE TO DO
ANYTHING?"

"NOPE."



"HE TOLD ME
EVERYTHING WAS
GOING TO BE
OKAY."

"HE TOLD ME
THAT HE'D SEE
ME AFTER."

"AND I'VE NEVER
HATED ANYONE
MORE."



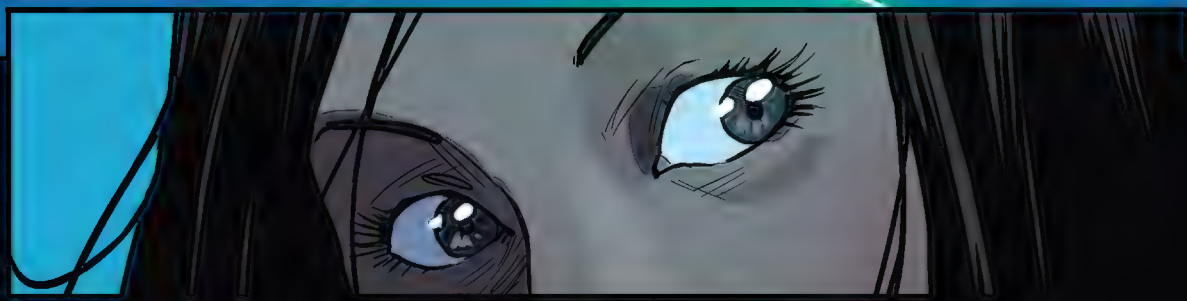
"THIS IS
GOING TO
HURT."

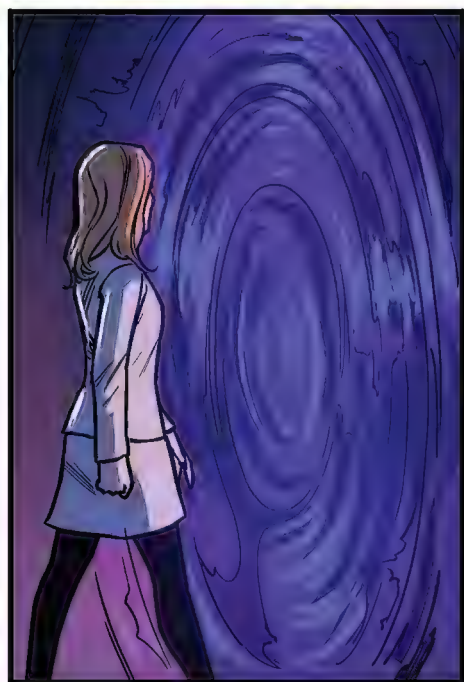
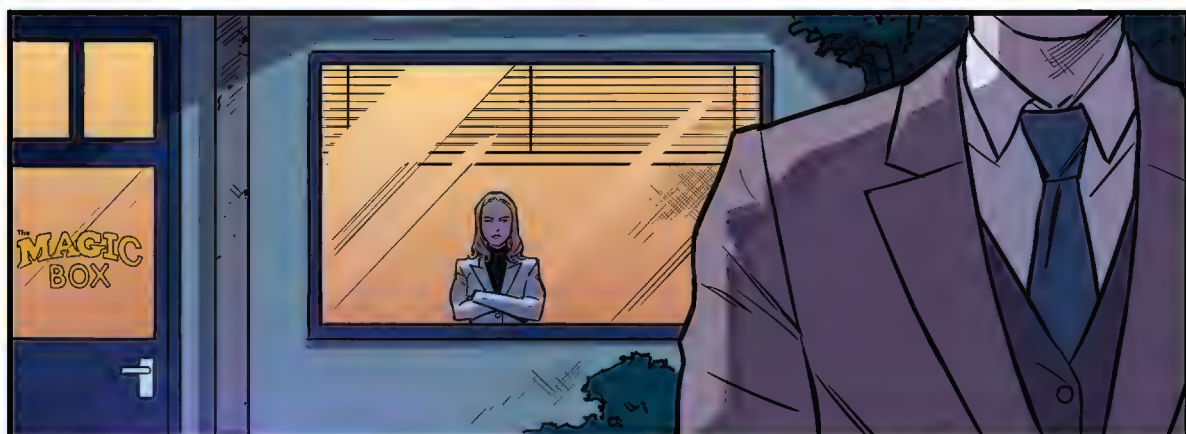
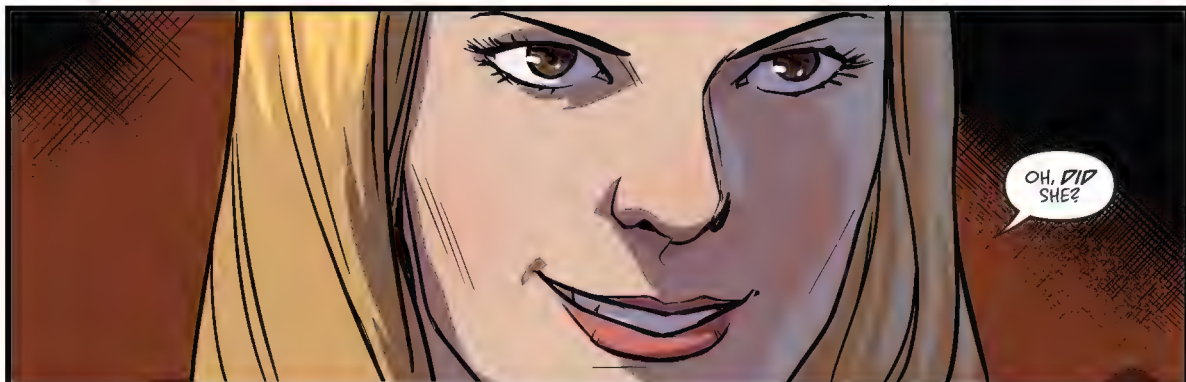
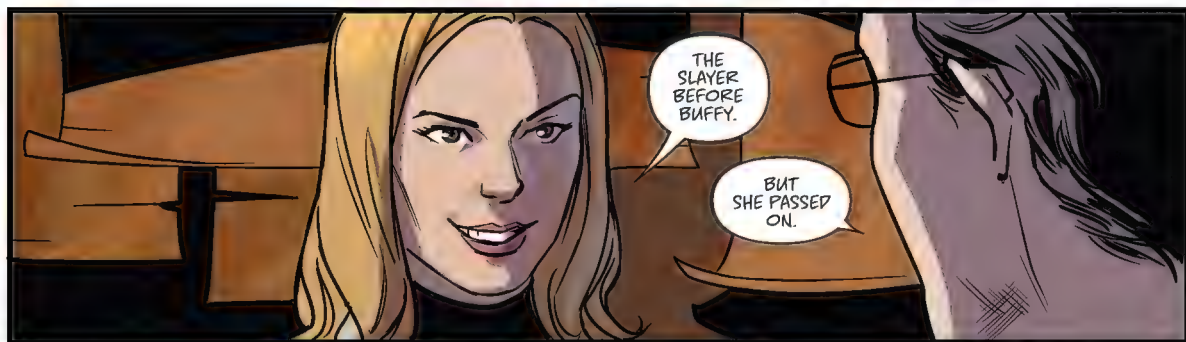
"IT SURE IS."

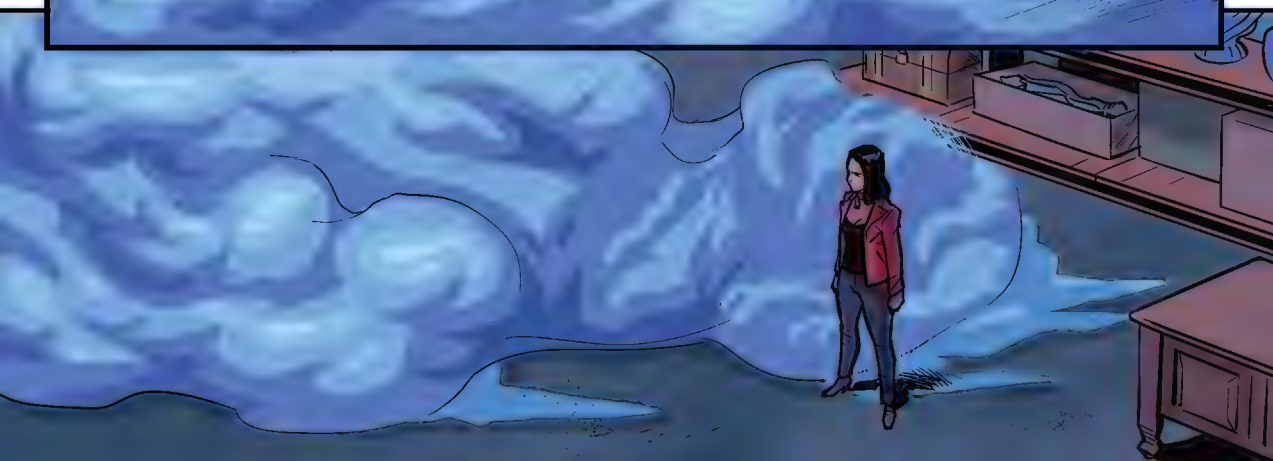
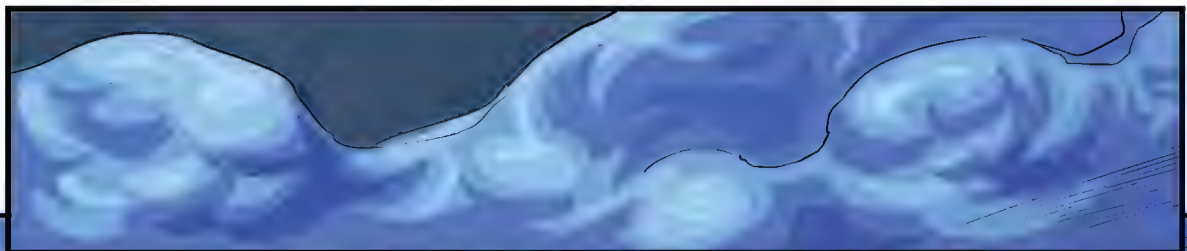
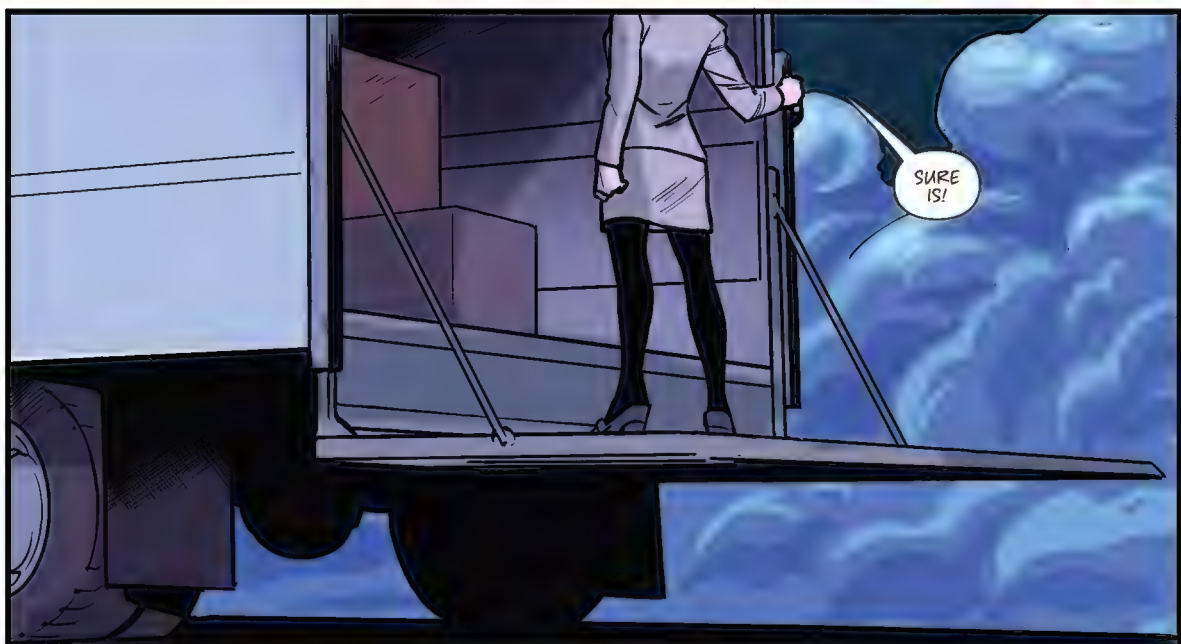
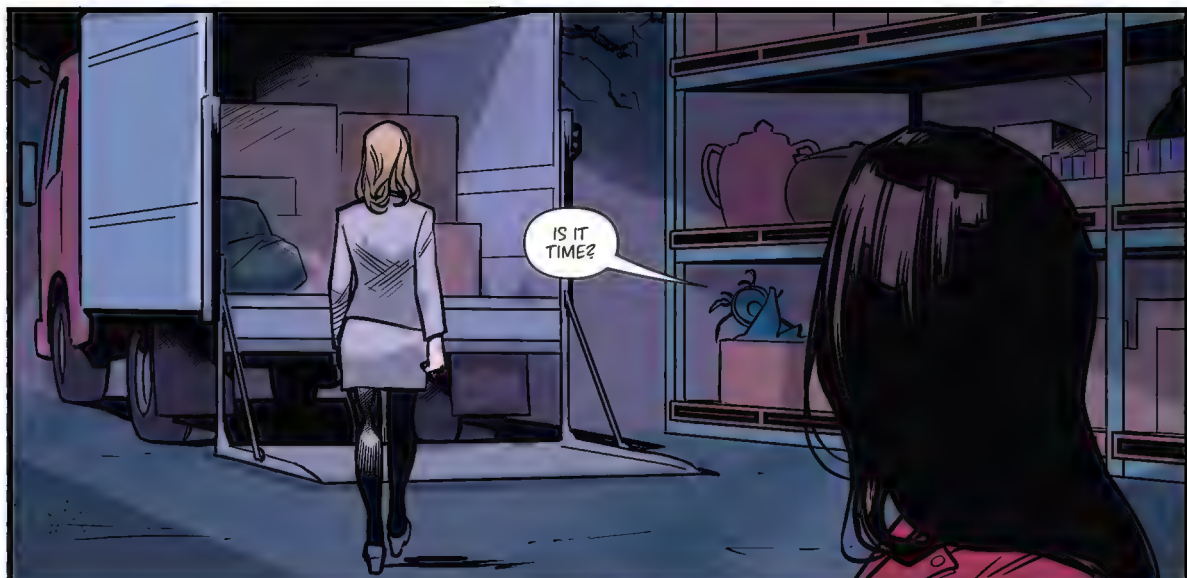


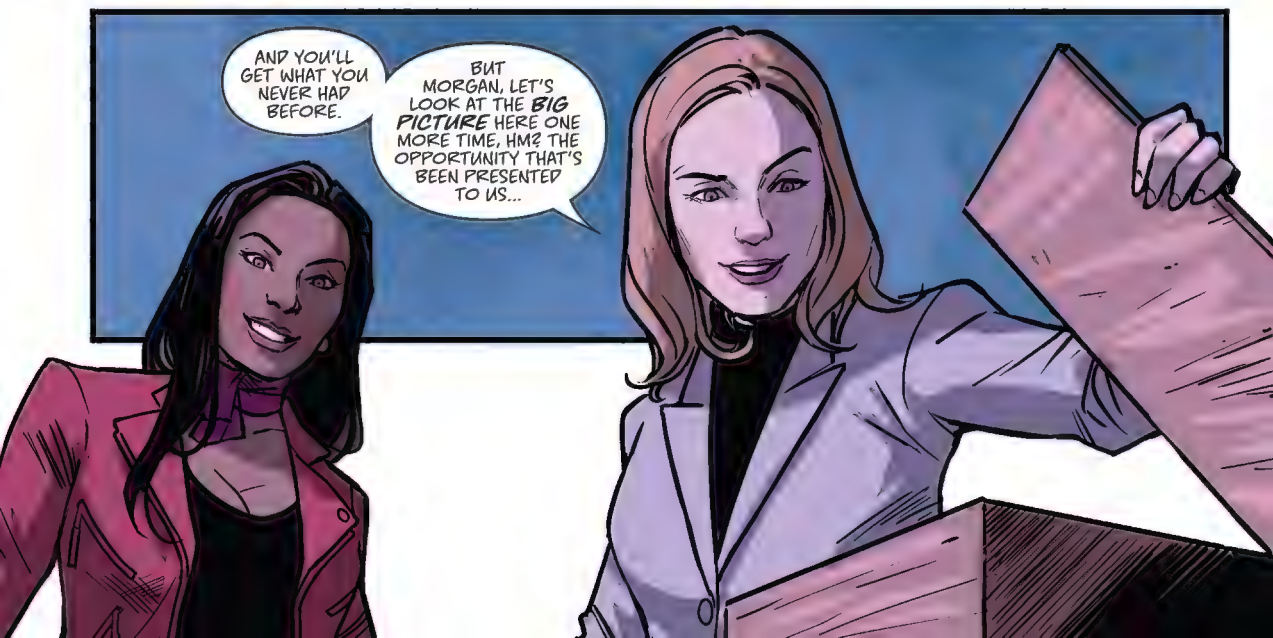
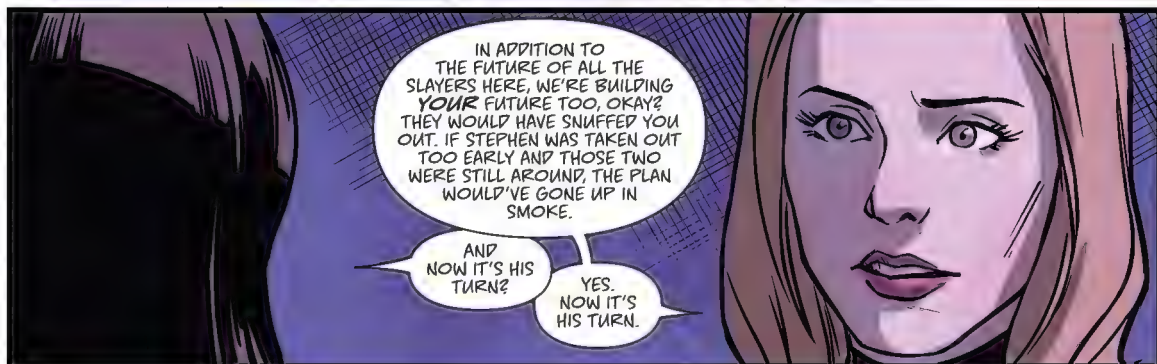
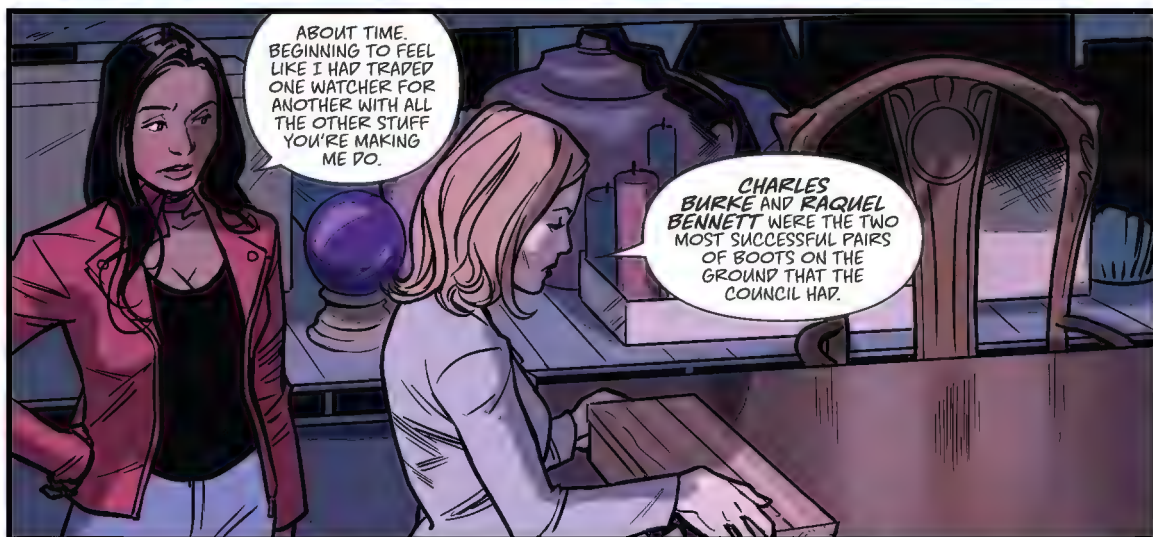
"BUT REMEMBER
YOUR FUTURE."







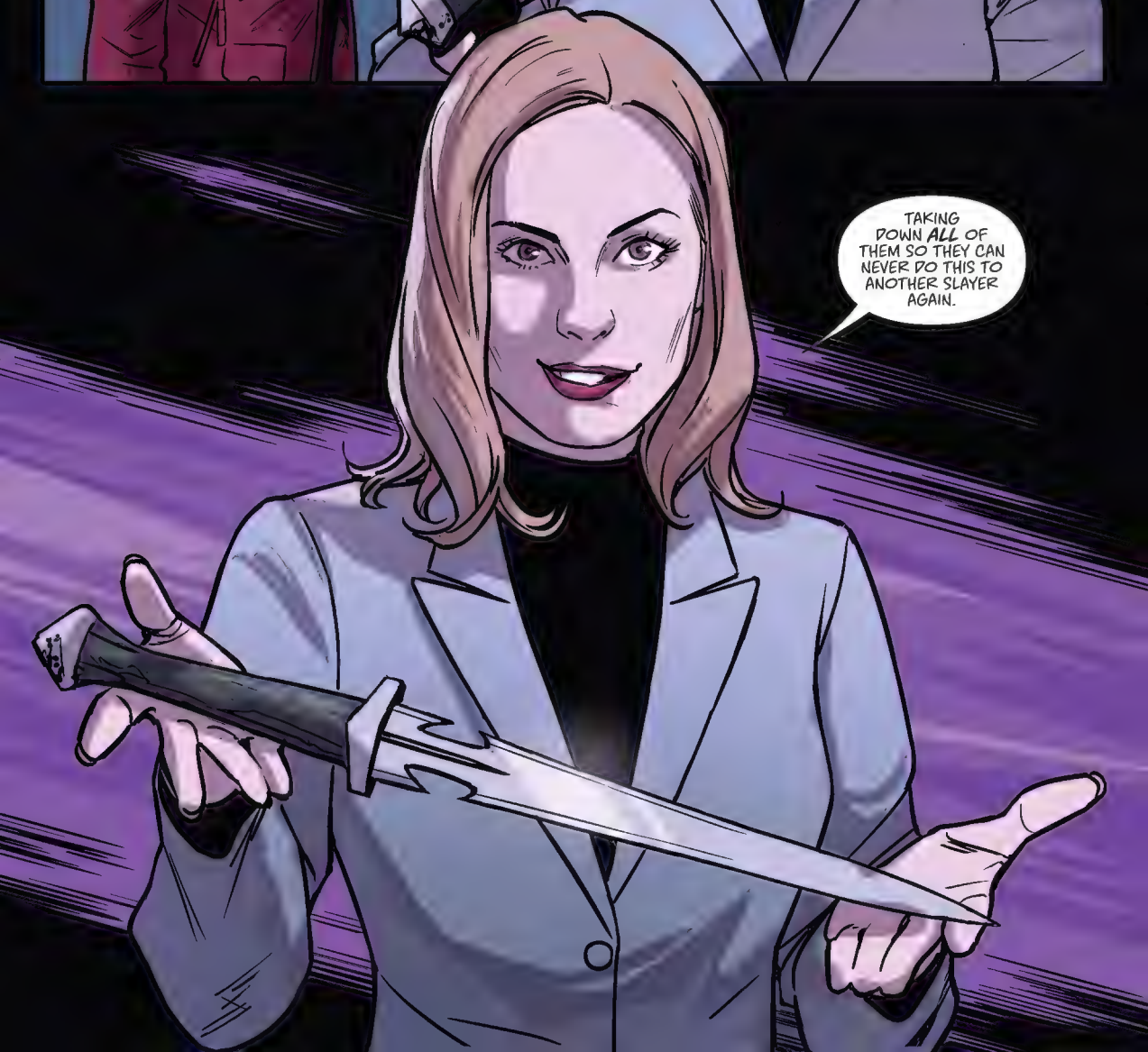






YOU KNOW
WHAT'S COOL? TAKING
DOWN THE WATCHER
THAT DID THIS TO YOU.
I WANT THAT. YOU WANT
THAT, TOO, AT THE END
OF THE DAY.

YOU KNOW
WHAT'S REALLY
COOL?



TAKING
DOWN ALL OF
THEM SO THEY CAN
NEVER DO THIS TO
ANOTHER SLAYER
AGAIN.

CLEVELAND, OHIO.







I JUST LOVE
SEEING...

...A GIRL'S
WISH COME
TRUE.





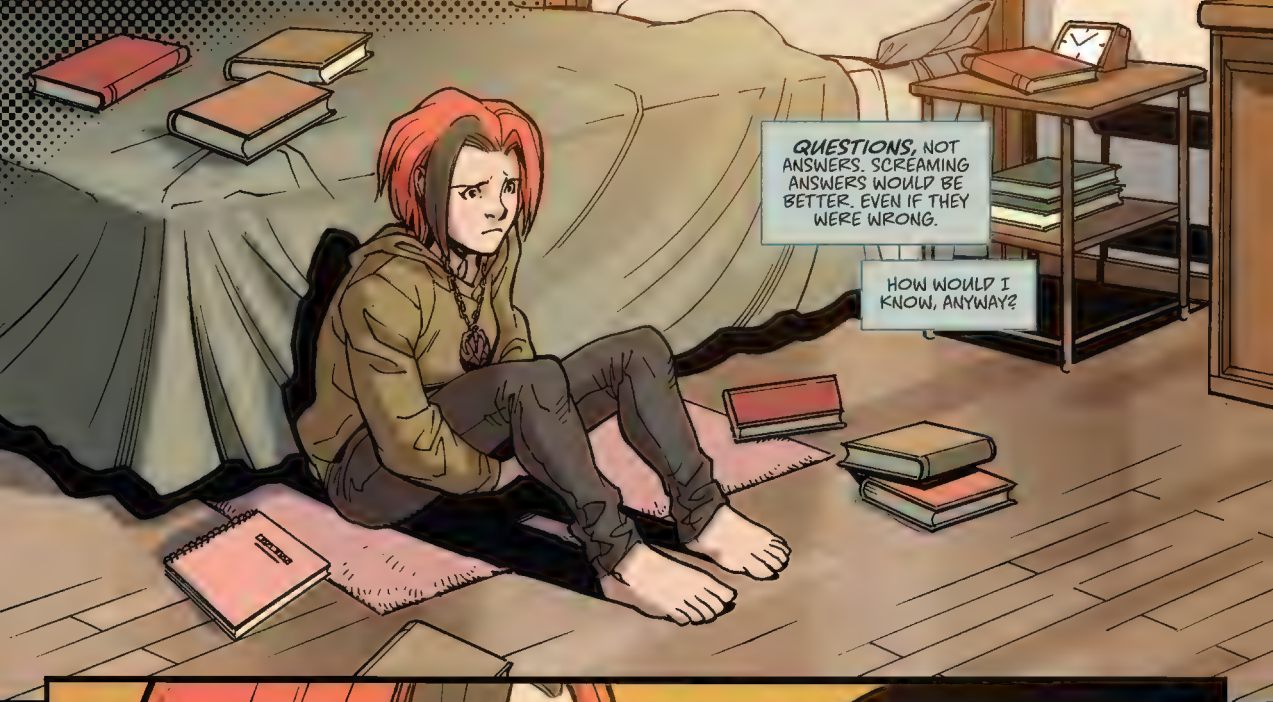
CHAPTER

TWENTY-TWO



A person with short red hair, wearing a dark hoodie and dark pants, is walking away from the viewer down a dark street at night. A large, bright spotlight shines down on them from above, creating a long, narrow beam of light that illuminates the person and the ground. The street is flanked by houses with lit windows, and trees are visible in the background. The overall mood is mysterious and somber.

THERE'S A PART
OF ME THAT'S
SCREAMING.



QUESTIONS, NOT ANSWERS. SCREAMING ANSWERS WOULD BE BETTER. EVEN IF THEY WERE WRONG.

HOW WOULD I KNOW, ANYWAY?



AM I EVEN SUPPOSED TO BE HERE?



IT FEELS LIKE NO MATTER WHAT I DO, THERE'S NO WAY OUT. I CARE ABOUT **THEM**, I REALLY DO. BUT THIS IS... THIS IS TURNING INTO SOMETHING ELSE. THIS ISN'T WHAT I WANTED.

I DON'T KNOW WHERE TO GO FROM HERE.



I JUST WANT IT TO BE OVER.
THE LIMBO, THE PURGATORY,
THE INDEFINITES AND INDECISION,
ALL OF IT. I DON'T WANT TO
FEEL THIS WAY ANYMORE.



GIVE ME A BUTTON
TO PRESS THAT
SKIPS FORWARD
TO...WHenever THAT
IS. DAYS. YEARS.
I'D DO IT.



BUT RIGHT
NOW, THIS IS IT.
MY LIFE.

AND I WANT IT TO
BE DIFFERENT.



THE PROBLEM IS THAT ANY SENSE
OF CALM--OF NOT HAVING AN ICY
HAND TREATING MY HEART LIKE A
STRESS BALL--FEELS **IMPOSSIBLE**.
LIKE SOMETHING ONLY SOMEONE
ELSE COULD EVER GET. SOMEONE
ELSE'S LIFE. NOT MINE.

THAT I WOULD BE ABLE
TO MAKE DECISIONS
FOR MYSELF...NOT HAVE
MY LIFE **DICTATED** BY
SOMEONE ELSE...

SHE TOLD ME SHE COULD DO
THAT FOR ME. SHE TOLD ME I
WASN'T THE ONLY **SLAYER** THIS
HAPPENED TO. AND THAT SHE'D
BEEN THERE BEFORE...

...AND I BELIEVED ANYA. I STILL DO, IN MANY WAYS. BUT I DON'T KNOW IF THIS IS MY WISH. MY REAL WISH.

"WHAT DOES MORGAN PALMER WANT?" NOT THIS. WHAT COMES AFTER, YES. BUT...NOT *THIS*.

THAT SCREAMING, FROM BEFORE... THE QUESTIONS THAT ECHO, THAT POUND AGAINST THE CONFINES OF MY HEAD. *CAN I TRUST HER? DO I HAVE A CHOICE?* THEY DON'T GO AWAY.

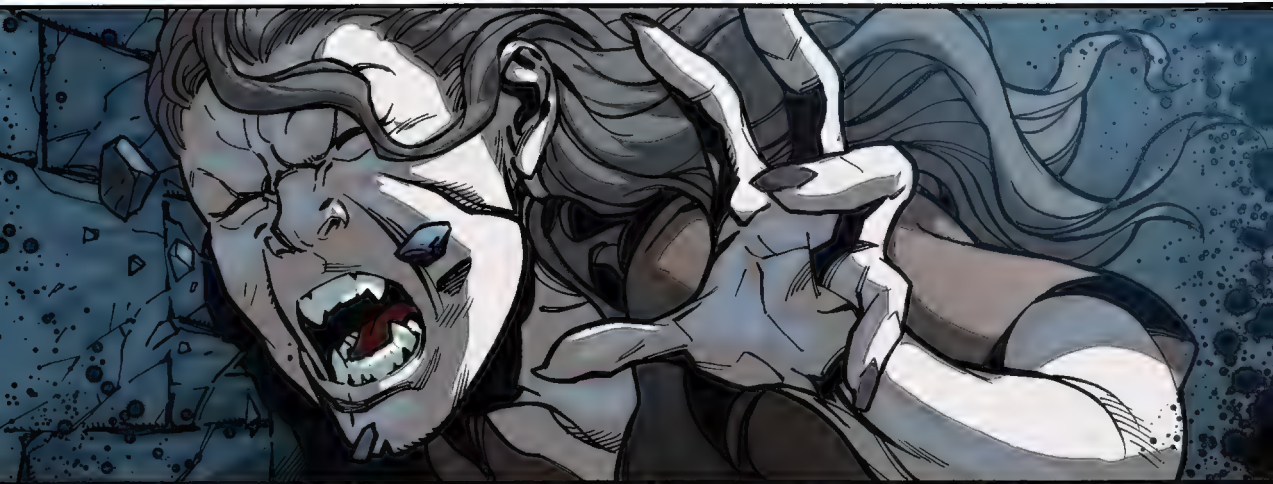
ARE YOU READY TO DO THIS?

THE NEXT STEP IN GETTING A LIFE OF YOUR VERY OWN? FREE FROM *WATCHERS*?

GOOD. BECAUSE I THINK WILLLOW'S SEEN MY DEMON FORM, AND THAT'S A REVEAL I CAN'T RISK YET.

...YEAH. I AM.







FIVE BY FIVE.



YOU'RE RIGHT, B. CROSSES DO ACTUALLY WORK.

NOT QUITE WHAT I WAS SAYING, BUT THAT'S FOR SURE ONE WAY TO DO IT.

MUCH AS I LOVE GETTING TO THE GOOD STUFF FIRST, I'M STILL FUZZY ON WHY THEY WERE TRYING TO MESS UP THOSE KIDS HAVIN' A GOOD TIME IN THE HONDA OUT THERE?



UGH, STILL DON'T GET WHY YOU WOULD GO TO A GRAVEYARD TO--

HEY, NO SHAME FROM ME.

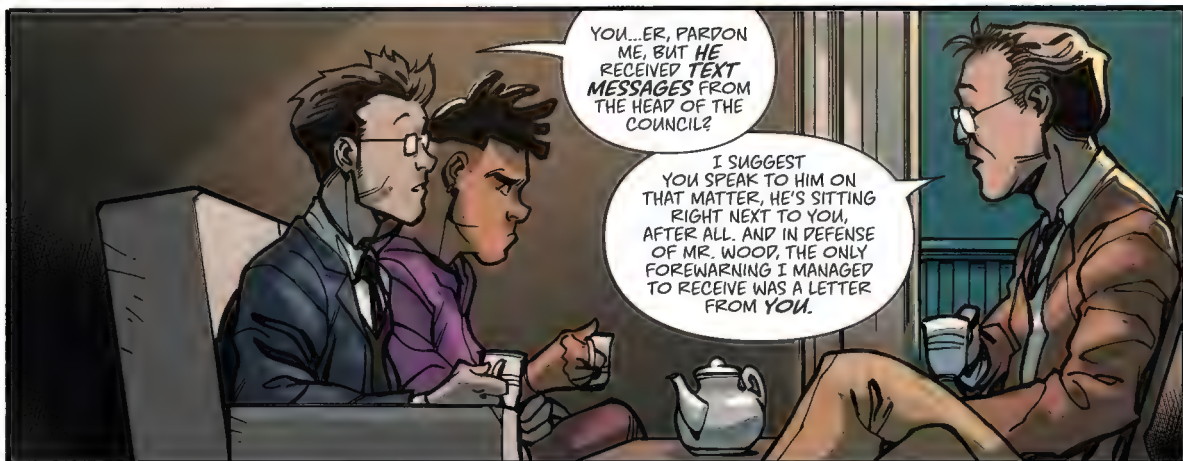
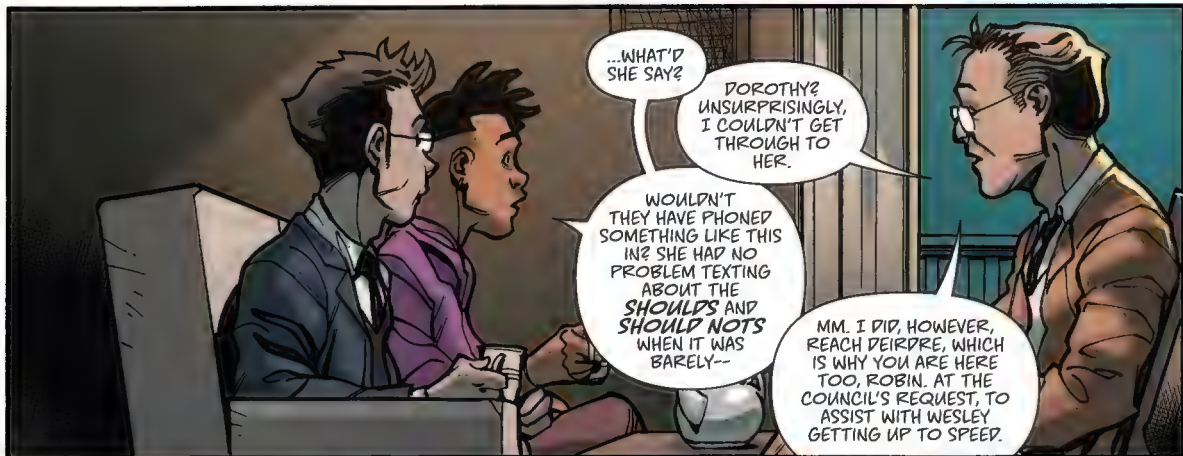
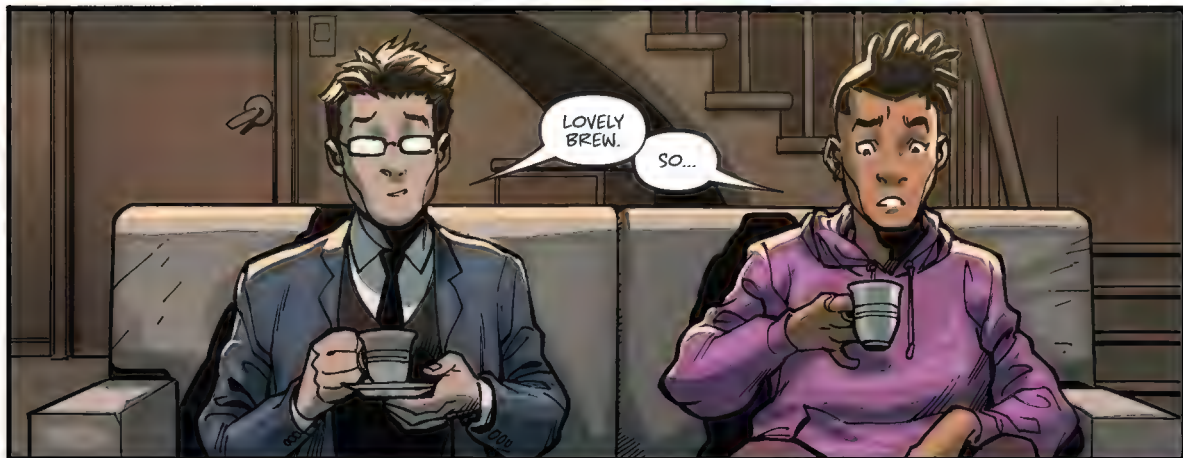
THEY DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH IT. VAMPS PROBABLY JUST TRYING TO STOCK UP ON FOOD, BUT IF GILES IS RIGHT, THIS IS SUPPOSED TO BE--

ALRIGHT, HOLD UP--

RUSTLE

RUSTLE



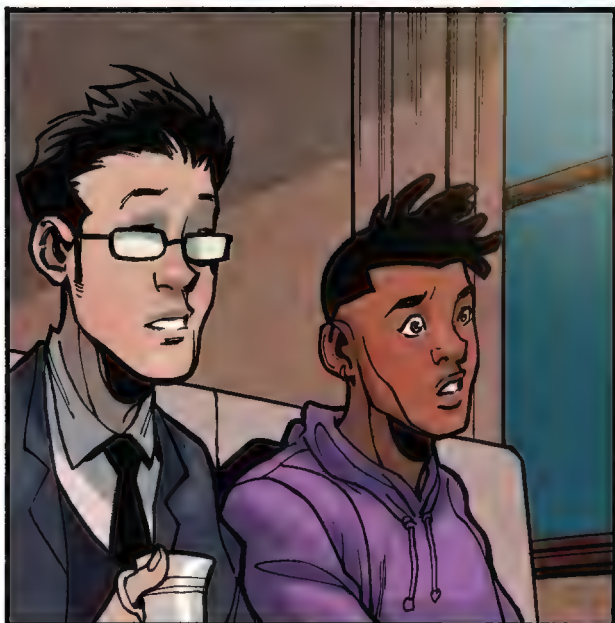




WHICH, THANK YOU, BY THE WAY, THOUGH YOU COULD HAVE BEEN A TAD LESS CRYPTIC AS TO *WHY* YOU'D BE IN SUNNYPALE. ANOTHER SLAYER...NO MATTER. AS FOR THE TASK AT HAND...



...I AM TO TAKE MR. WYNDHAM-PRYCE'S LEAD IN ALL MATTERS.



WHAT A...WHAT A SURPRISE. SUCH AN HONOR. EX...EXCELLENT, SO, FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS IS FOR ME TO SPEAK WITH DOROTHY--

GILES, I KNOW I'M NEW TO THE PARTY, BUT THAT'S BOGUS. DUDE JUST HOPPED OUT OF A SHRUB.



I'M INCLINED TO AGREE WITH MR. WOOD, BUT NOT FOR THE SAME REASONS.

WESLEY, WHATEVER PROFESSIONAL COURTESY YOU CAN OFFER ME AS A WATCHER WITH YEARS OF SERVICE AND A GOD AWFUL PORTRAIT AT COUNCIL HALL, I WOULD APPRECIATE.

IF YOU, OR BY EXTENSION, YOUR NEW ASSOCIATE MR. WOOD, DISAGREE WITH ANY OF THIS, I URGE YOU TO SIMPLY CONSIDER IT.



ON MORE THAN ONE OCCASION, IT'S BEEN MADE CLEAR TO ME THAT THE COUNCIL MOVES UNILATERALLY TO PUSH ANY CONSIDERATION OF THE SLAYER--FORGIVE ME, **SLAYERS**--TO THE SIDE.

THEY URGE SECRECY. MANDATE THAT ONLY WE ARE PRIVY TO THE BIG PICTURE, THE SLAYERS ARE SOLDIERS TO **FOLLOW** ORDERS, NOT MAKE THEM, AND SO ON.



IN MY TIME, I'VE FOUND THAT RECOGNIZING THE COUNCIL'S ULTIMATE GOAL, AND THEN ADAPTING OUR PLAN TO MAKE IT ALL WORK, IS THE BEST TACTIC.

THE COUNCIL IS NOT HERE AND THEY DON'T UNDERSTAND THE SLAYERS, IF THEY EVER DID. DISMISSING THE SLAYERS' WISHES AND NEEDS AS INDIVIDUALS--



RIDICULOUS. DOROTHY, AND THE REST OF THE COUNCIL FOR THAT MATTER, HAVE **LONG** WARNED OF EMOTIONS GETTING IN THE WAY OF EFFICIENCY. IT'S BEEN THE DOWNFALL OF MANY A SLAYER **AND** WATCHER.

MR. GILES, I...I THINK YOU'VE BEEN AWAY TOO LONG. DOROTHY IS RIGHT, WE NEED A RE-CENTERING--

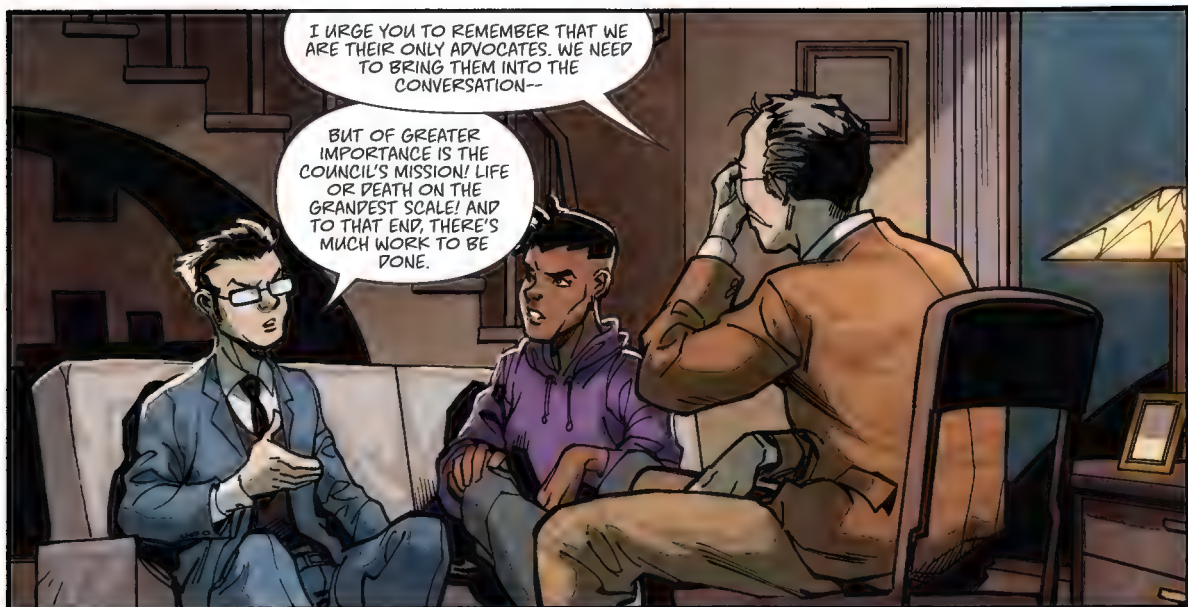


RESPECTFULLY, MR. WYNDHAM-PRYCE, I'M NOT FINISHED.



STRICT ADHERENCE TO THE COUNCIL'S ORDERS TO THE TUNE OF "FOR THE GREATER GOOD" WILL BACKFIRE WITH BUFFY, KENDRA, AND MOST LIKELY FAITH. IF NOT NOW, IN TIME.

NOT BECAUSE THEY WISH TO SHIRK THEIR RESPONSIBILITY, BUT BECAUSE EACH OF THEM ARE **INDIVIDUALS** FIRST, **SLAYERS** SECOND. WE MUST TAKE THAT INTO ACCOUNT.



IT WAS ONE THING
WITH MY WATCHER.
STEPHEN REILLY.
RAQUEL BENNET...

...THE ONES
RESPONSIBLE FOR
WHAT WAS TO BE MY
MURDER. JUST SO
THAT EVERYONE COULD
WALK AWAY WITH THEIR
HAPPY LITTLE LIVES
AND HAPPY LITTLE
PLAN.

SORRY--
YOU NEED
MORE
TIME?

--JUST A
LITTLE. MORE
SCOUTING. NEED
TO DO THIS
RIGHT.

DRATS, ONE OF
THE VERY THINGS I
DON'T SELL! WELL, NOT
UNLESS YOU COUNT THE
SILVER SANDS FROM
THE VALHALLAN
HOURGLASS, BUT...

MORGAN,
WE DON'T **HAVE** MORE
TIME. WE NEED TO MOVE.
THIS CHESS MATCH HAS
BEEN GOING ON FOR A
DECADE AND IF WE DON'T
MAKE THIS MOVE THE
ENTIRE THING IS
SCREWED.

I STILL FEEL
THAT WAY ABOUT
THE COUNCIL. BUT
THIS...HERE, IN
SUNNYPDALE, THIS
ISN'T WHAT I
THOUGHT.

I DON'T KNOW IF IT
FEELS RIGHT ANYMORE.

WAIT!
WE NEED TO
TALK THIS
THROUGH!

WE SHOULD
JUST TAKE
HIM BACK TO
GILES!



WHAAAAAT IS GOING ON WITH YOU TWO? NO NEED FOR THE WHISPERING. THE LITTLE GUY FAINTED, HE'S NOT GONNA SNAP OUT OF IT AND IF HE DOES, I'LL TAKE CARE OF HIM. WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?

THE BIG DEAL IS THAT... THAT GUY KNOWS WHERE XANDER IS! YOU SAW HIS FACE WHEN WE WERE ASKING HIM.



YEAH, AND **OVERLOADED** HIM. LOOK, I GET IT. DANGEROUS PACKAGE, HERE, AND SINCE WE'RE ALL **NONE THE WISER**, I'M TAKING OUR WEIRD LITTLE BUDDY BACK TO WESLEY, YOU KNOW, THE WATCHER GUY EVERYONE KEEPS TELLING ME IS MY GANDALF OR WHATEVER.



I'M JUST PLAYING BY THE RULES Y'ALL KEEP HARPIN' ON ME ABOUT. LET'S PRETEND EVERYONE'S CHILL AND LEMME PLAY IN THE SANDBOX, **ALRIGHT?**

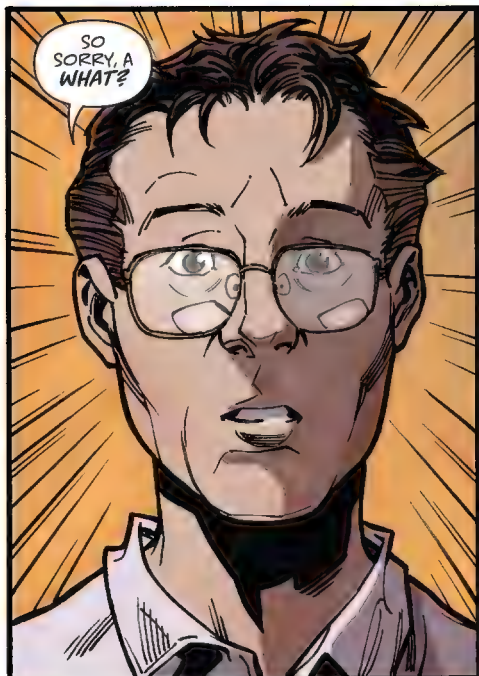
YOU GO GET GILES, WE MEET UP AT WES' PLACE, FIGURE OUT NEXT STEPS, AND THE DONE DEAL, YEAH?



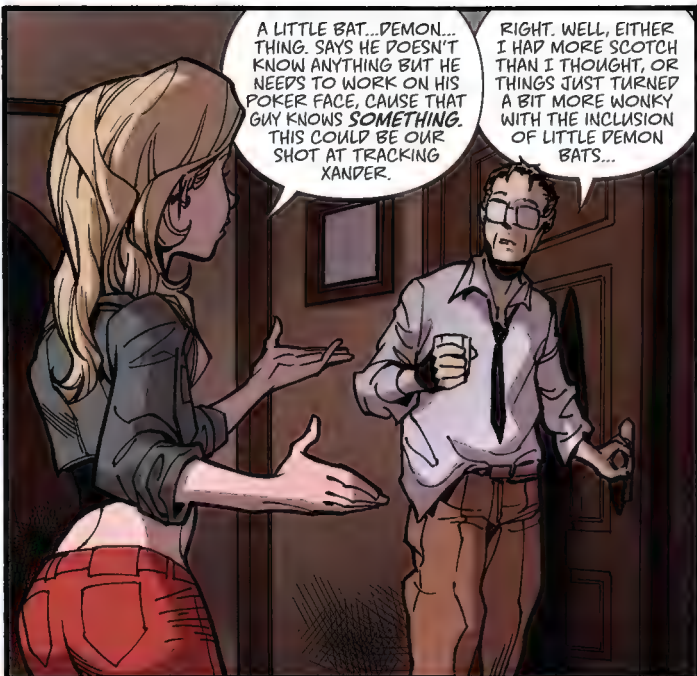
I MEAN, LITTLE DEMON WITH TIES TO XANDER? I'M NOT FEELIN' SO CHILL OVER HERE, HAND HIM OV--

I'M GOING WITH YOU, THEN, TO WESLEY'S.



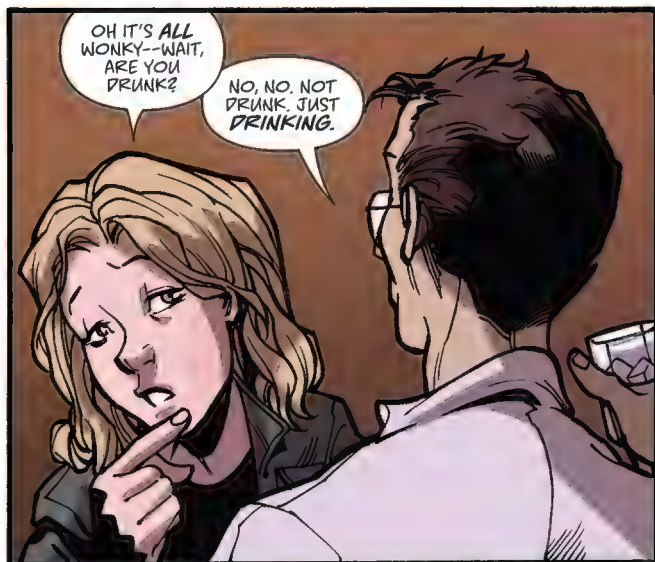


SO
SORRY, A
WHAT?



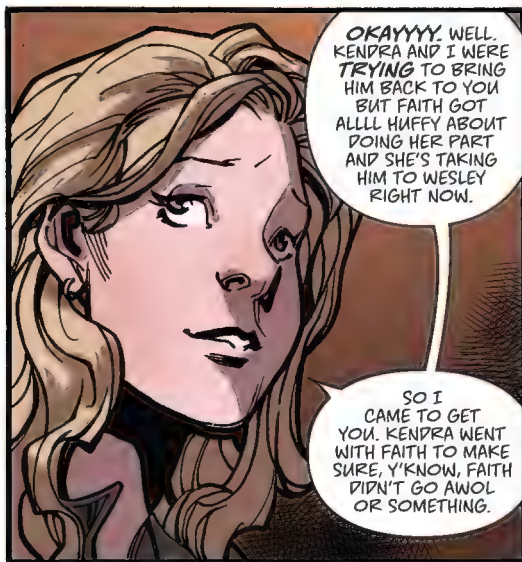
A LITTLE BAT...DEMON...
THING. SAYS HE DOESN'T
KNOW ANYTHING BUT HE
NEEDS TO WORK ON HIS
POKER FACE, CAUSE THAT
GUY KNOWS *SOMETHING*.
THIS COULD BE OUR
SHOT AT TRACKING
XANDER.

RIGHT. WELL, EITHER
I HAD MORE SCOTCH
THAN I THOUGHT, OR
THINGS JUST TURNED
A BIT MORE WONKY
WITH THE INCLUSION
OF LITTLE DEMON
BATS...



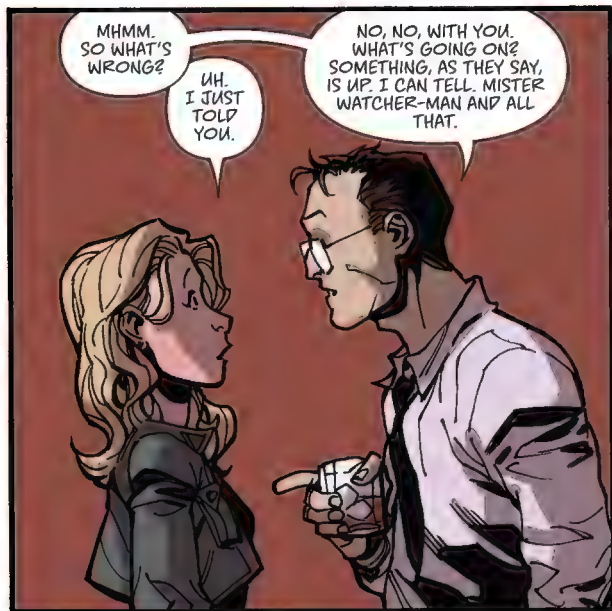
OH IT'S ALL
WONKY--WAIT,
ARE YOU
DRUNK?

NO, NO. NOT
DRUNK. JUST
DRINKING.



OKAYYYY. WELL.
KENDRA AND I WERE
TRYING TO BRING
HIM BACK TO YOU
BUT FAITH GOT
ALLLL HUFFY ABOUT
DOING HER PART
AND SHE'S TAKING
HIM TO WESLEY
RIGHT NOW.

SO I
CAME TO GET
YOU. KENDRA WENT
WITH FAITH TO MAKE
SURE, Y'KNOW, FAITH
DIDN'T GO AWOL
OR SOMETHING.



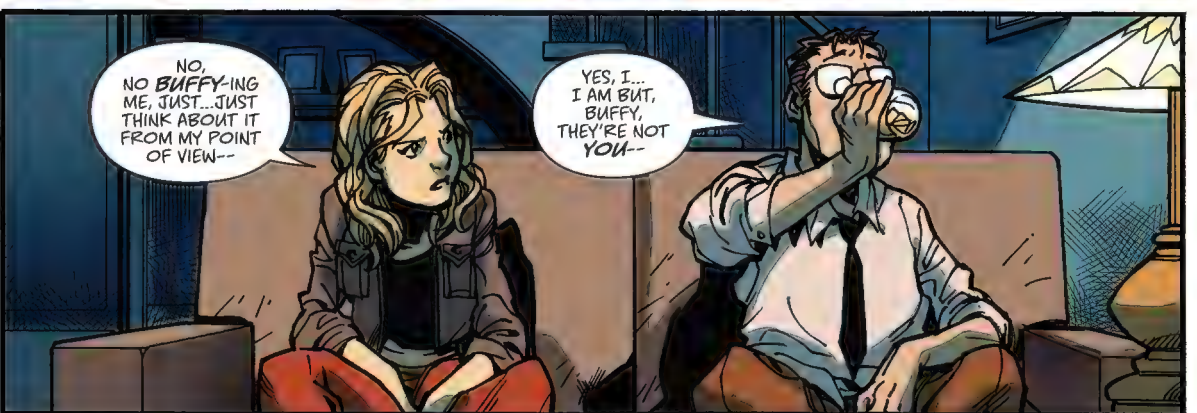
MHMM.
SO WHAT'S
WRONG?

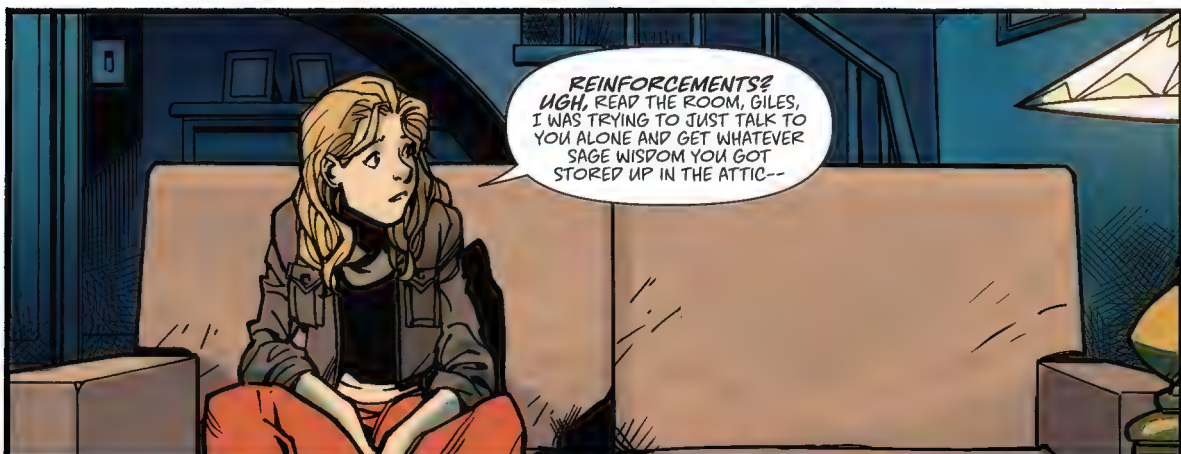
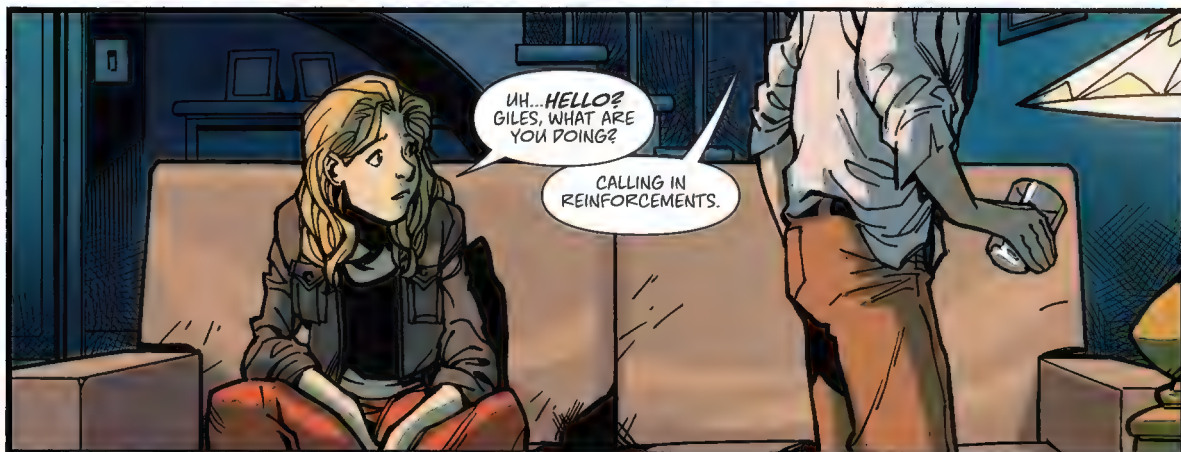
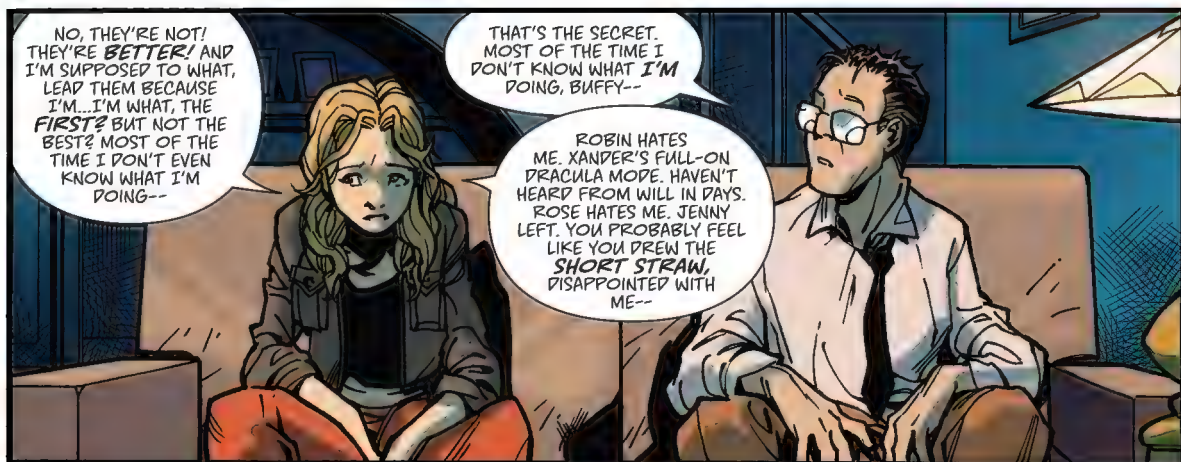
UH.
I JUST
TOLD
YOU.

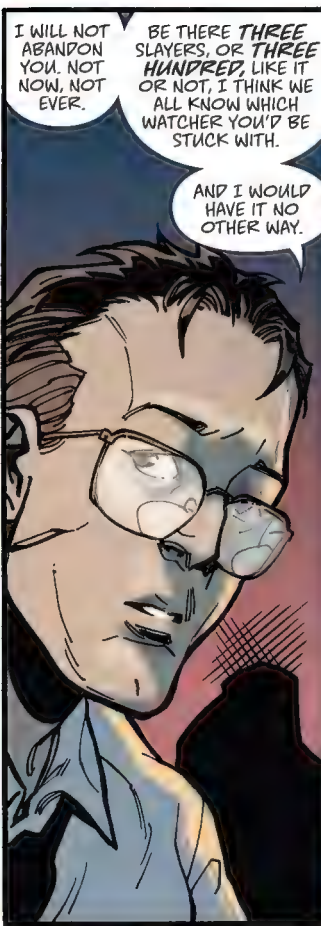
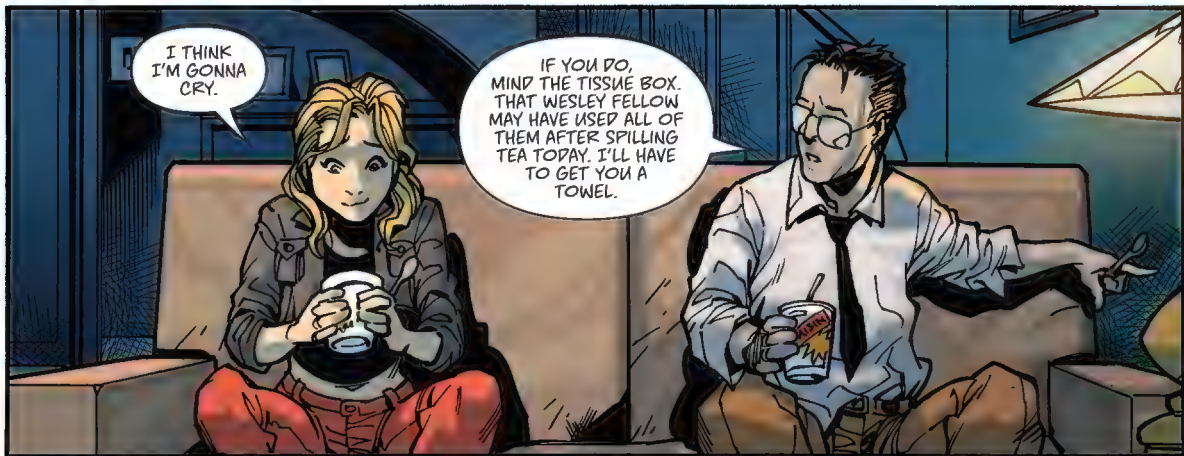
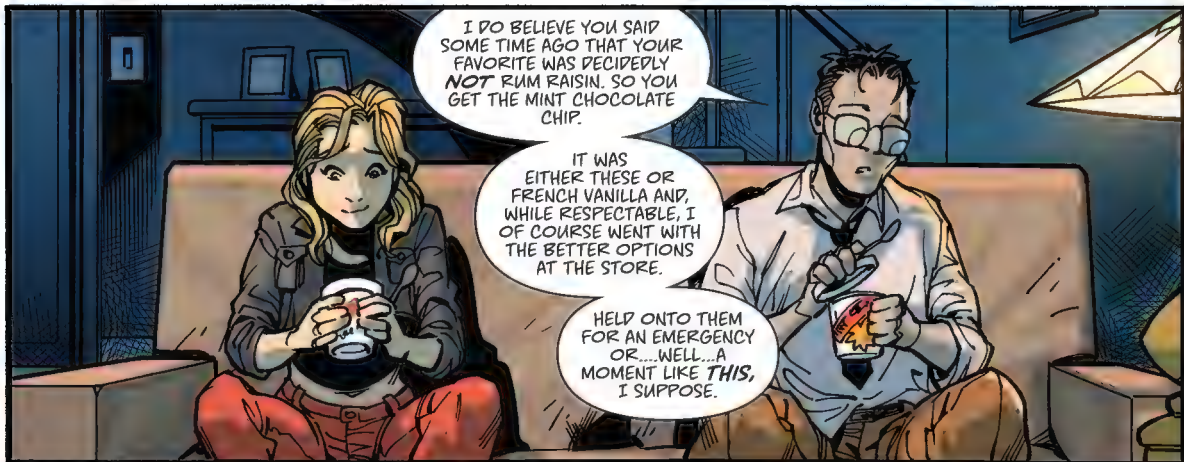
NO, NO, WITH YOU.
WHAT'S GOING ON?
SOMETHING, AS THEY SAY,
IS UP. I CAN TELL. MISTER
WATCHER-MAN AND ALL
THAT.



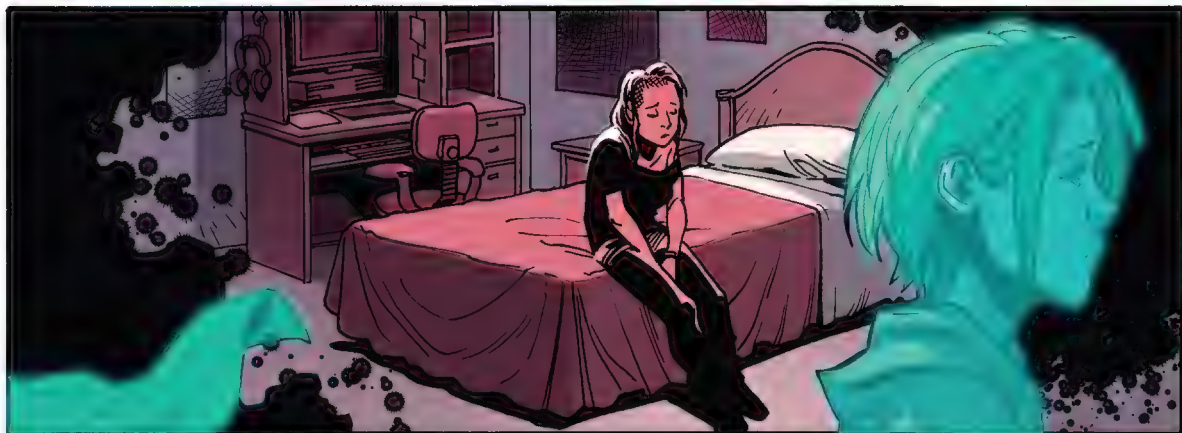
NOTHING.
NOTHING'S
UP...











BUT DOES IT
CHANGE
ANYTHING?





FAITH



#SLAY





JUST LOOK
AROUND YOU. ALL
YOU GOTTA DO IS
LOOK AROUND YOU
AT YOUR LOVED
ONES. YOUR
FRIENDS, YOUR
FAMILY.



I TELL
YOU, BELINDA, BY
GOLLY, WHAT I KNOW
NOW...THERE IS NOTHING
MORE IMPORTANT, MORE
BEAUTIFUL IN THIS
WORLD...THAN
FAMILY.

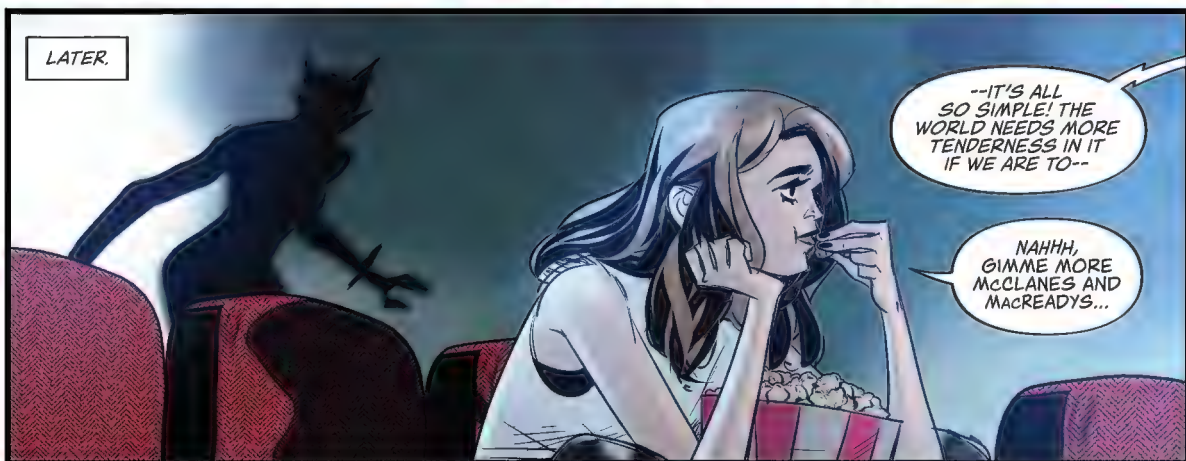
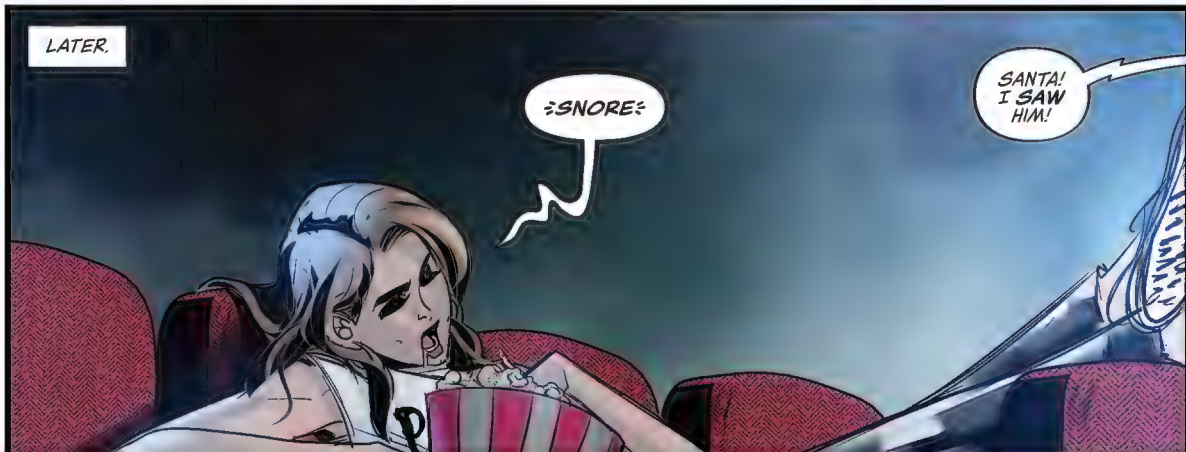
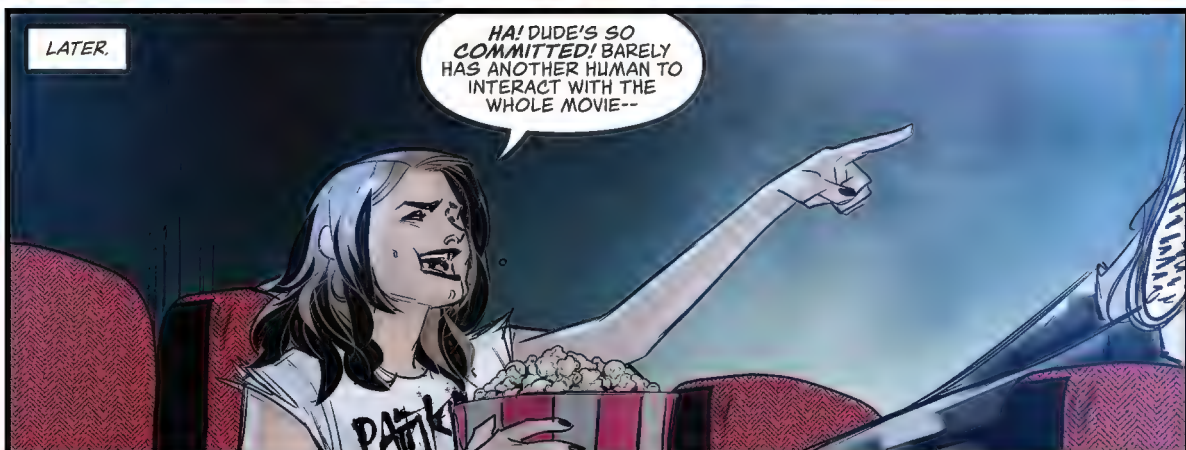
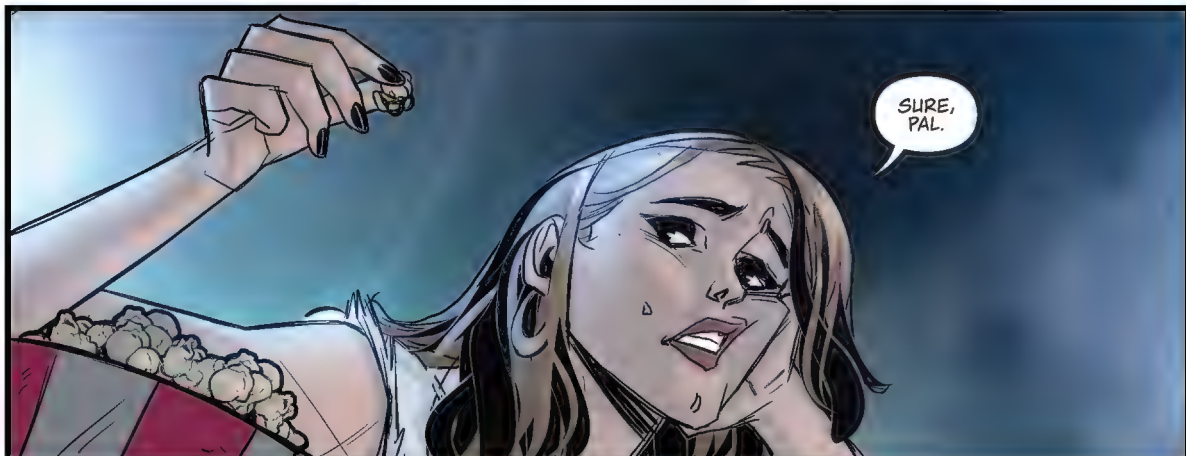
I LOVE
YOU, OH,
I LOVE YOU
ALL!

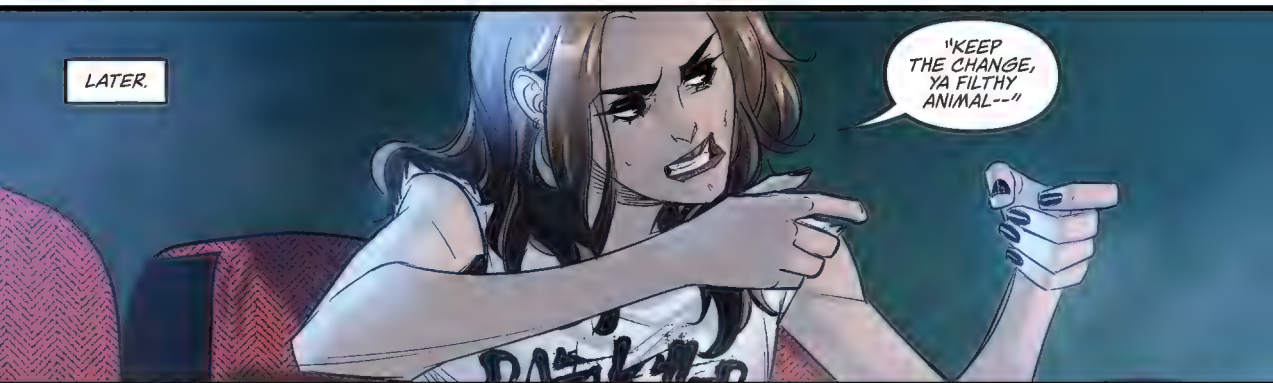
*And the world...just for one
moment...knew joy, peace,
and love.*

The End



WHAAAAAAAT?



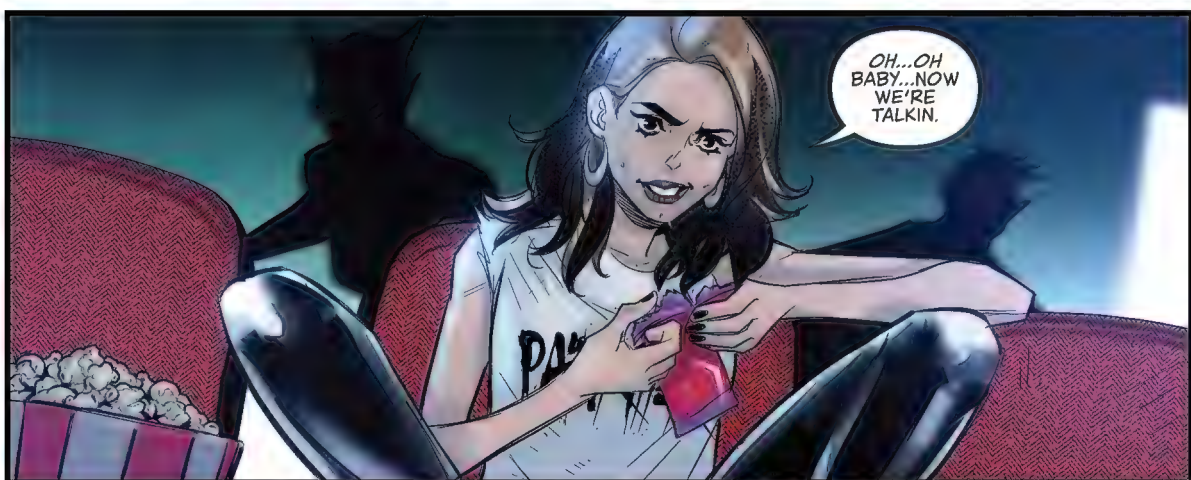


LATER.

"KEEP THE CHANGE, YA FILTHY ANIMAL--"



LATER.



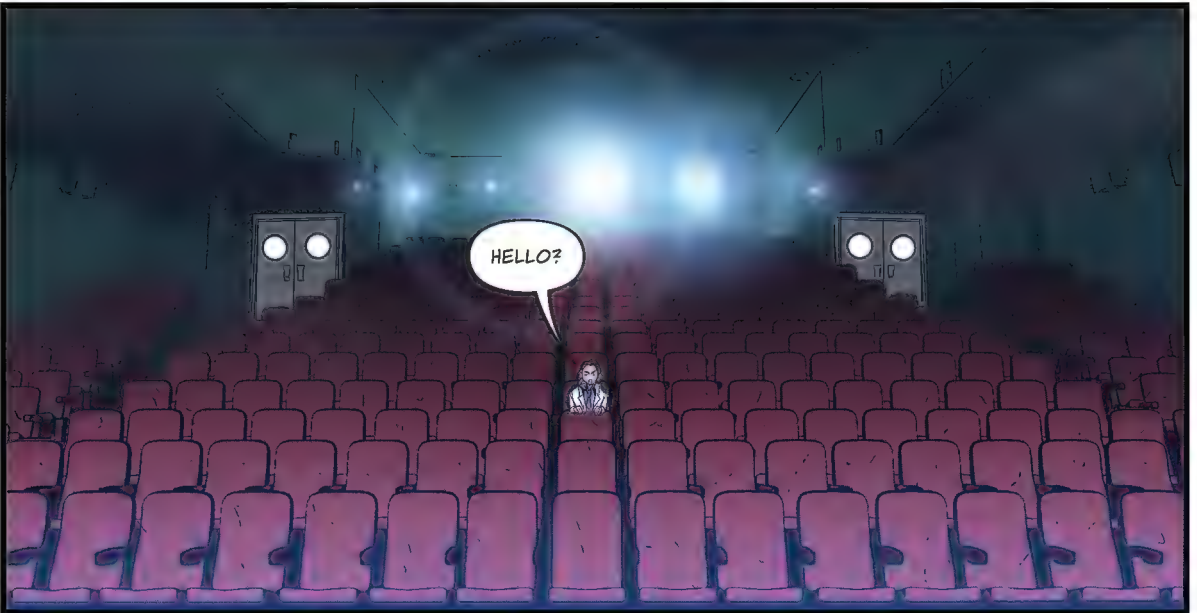
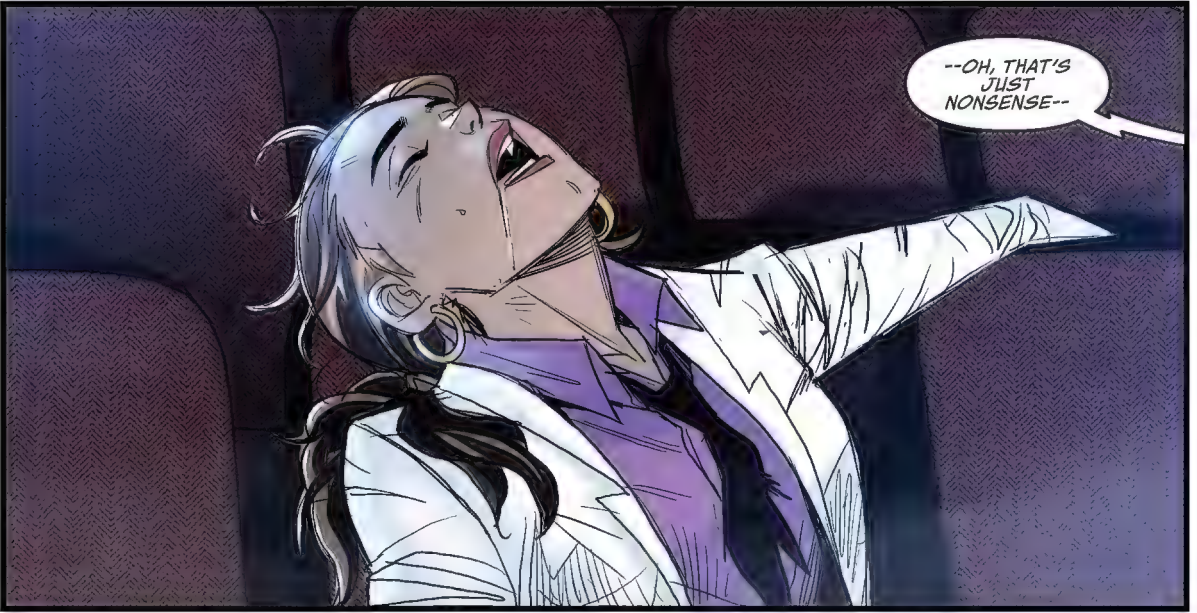
OH...OH BABY...NOW WE'RE TALKIN.

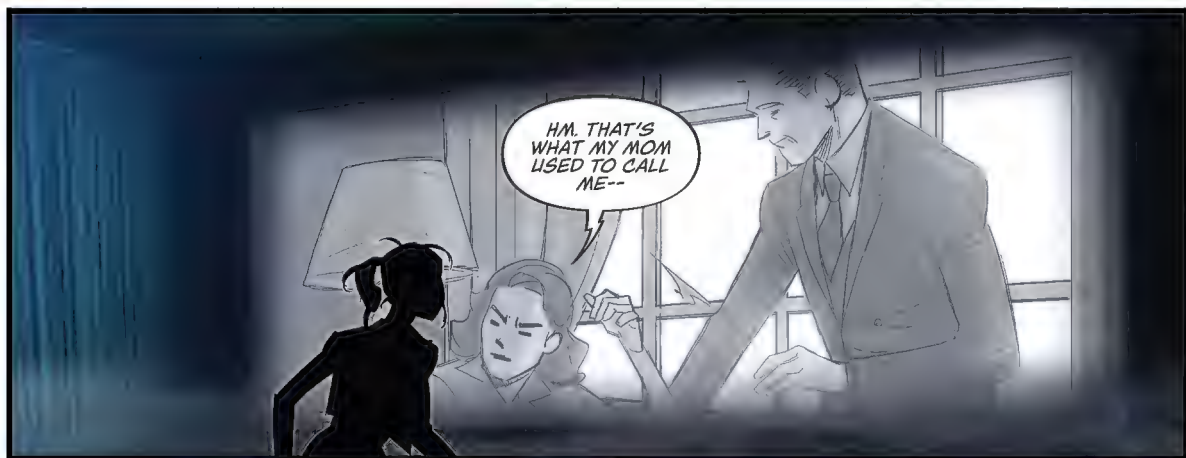


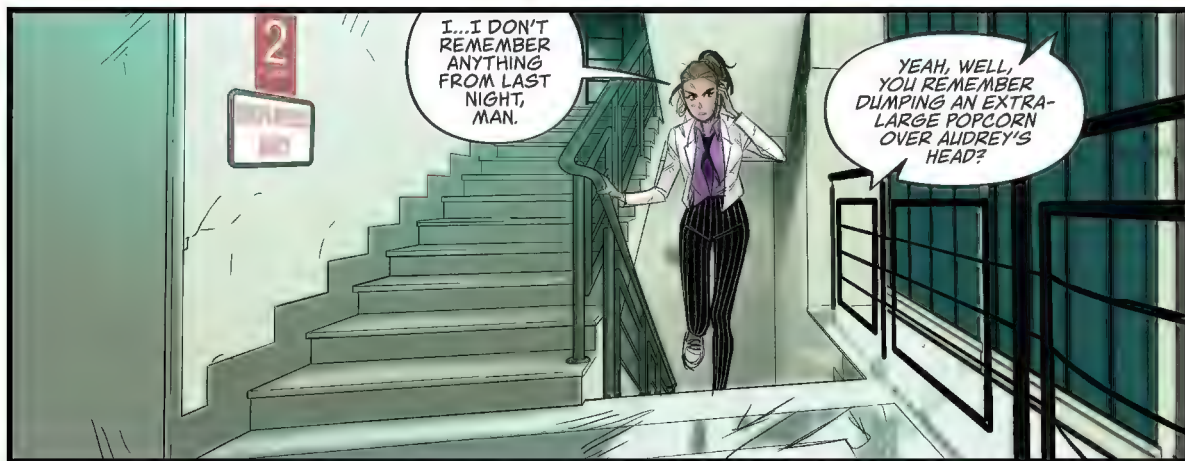
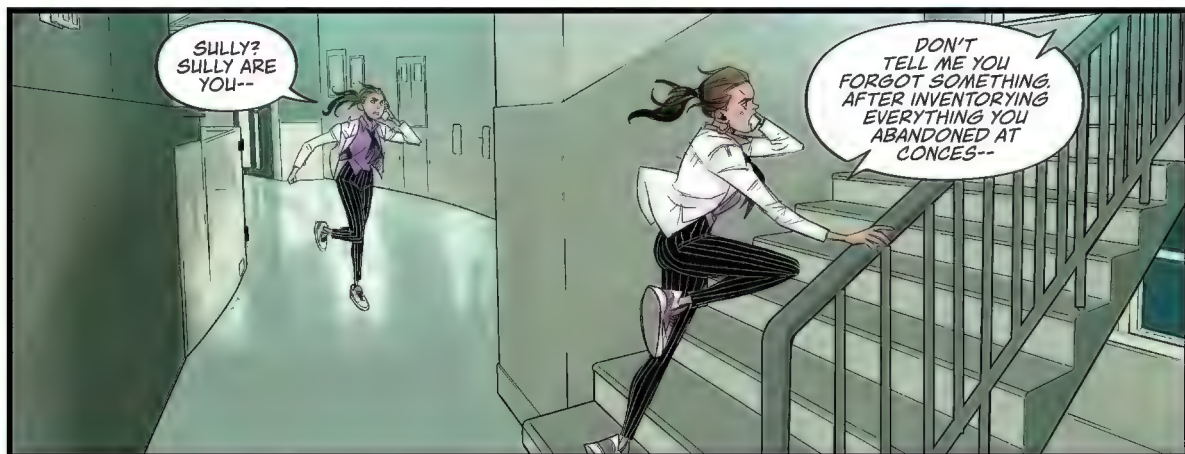
...THE BEST OF Y'EM ALL...



DIE
HARD.









WHAT, SHE DESERVED IT.

EVERYTHING AFTERWARDS IS A...**BLUR**. DON'T EVEN REMEMBER LAST SHOWING-- ALSO, OPEN UP, I'M OUTSIDE THE BOOTH.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? I LOCKED THE PLACE UP AT ELEVEN. WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU'RE THERE, YOU BAILED--

WHAT?

YOU LEFT AGAIN. RIGHT BEFORE OLD MR. HANEY DID THAT THING WHERE HE MISSED THE OPENING OF THE MOVIE AND WANTS HIS MONEY BACK.



YOU BAILED WELL BEFORE LAST SHOWING, FAITH. MISSED CLEANING TOO.

...YOU'RE NOT IN THE PROJECTION BOOTH?

FAITH, I'M ALREADY HOME. IT'S ONE IN THE MORNING.



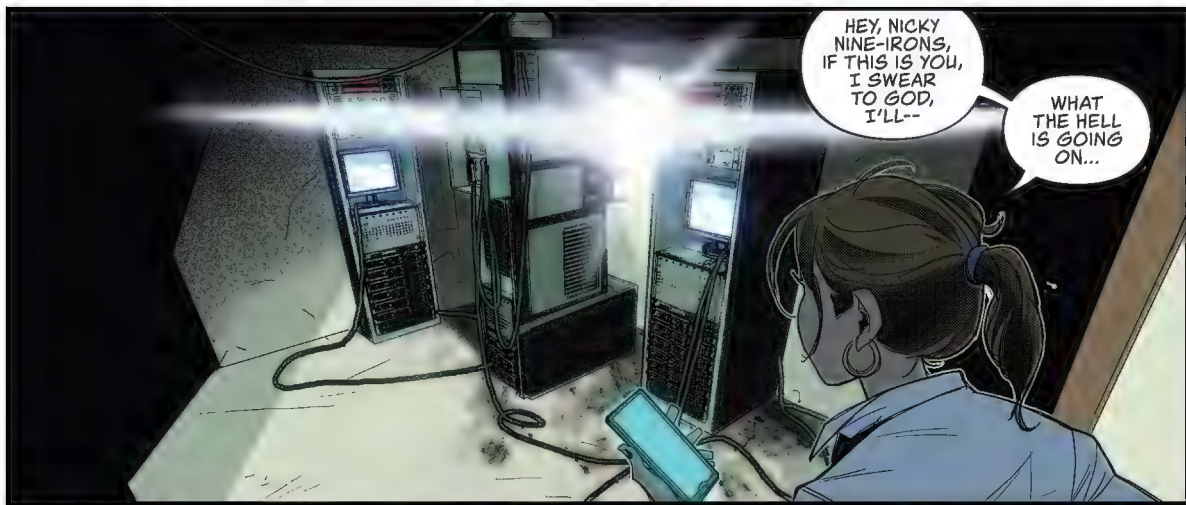
NOW DON'T SCREW ANYTHING ELSE UP FOR ME, LOCK THE PLACE DOWN, AND GO HOME, OR WHEREVER YOU GO.

OH COME ON...SULLY, I'M...I'M...I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S--



I'LL INSPECT THE DAMAGE IN THE MORNING AND I'M SURE THEY'LL BE PLENTY OF IT. I'M GOING BACK TO BED GOOD NIGHT.

HELLO...?



HEY, NICKY NINE-IRONS, IF THIS IS YOU, I SWEAR TO GOD, I'LL--

WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON...

THERE'S A MOVIE
I DON'T FINISH.



NOT LIKE I DO IT ON PURPOSE. PROBABLY
AN OBSCURE GERMAN WORD FOR THAT OR
SOMETHING? A MOVIE YOU NEVER CATCH ALL
OF? ALWAYS DRIFT OFF BEFORE THE END?



'CAUSE THAT'S JUST
HOW IT FEELS FOR
ME. ALL THE TIME.

LIKE I'VE BEEN
HERE BEFORE,
BUT FORGET
HOW IT GOES.



AGH!

I DON'T KNOW
WHO'S IN IT.

LISTEN,
FAITH. YOU HAVE TO
REACT. JUST BE
YOURSELF.



ALWAYS GOT A
HEADACHE WHEN
IT'S ON.

AND EVERYTHING
ALWAYS SMELLS
LIKE POPCORN.

IT WAS ALWAYS
THE MOVIES,
FOR ME.



HELPED ME
UNDERSTAND
EVERYTHING.



EVERYTHING I
WAS SCARED OF.

AND EVERYONE.



IT WAS ALWAYS THE MOVIES
BECAUSE THEY WERE OTHER
WORLDS...BETTER ONES.
ONES I COULD START AND
STOP. ONES I COULD
CONTROL.

FAITH,
COME
ON--

FEELS GREAT, WHEN YOU GOT
NO CONTROL OVER ANYTHING
ELSE. BUT AT SOME POINT YOU
REALIZE EVERYONE'S GOT
DIFFERENT RULES.

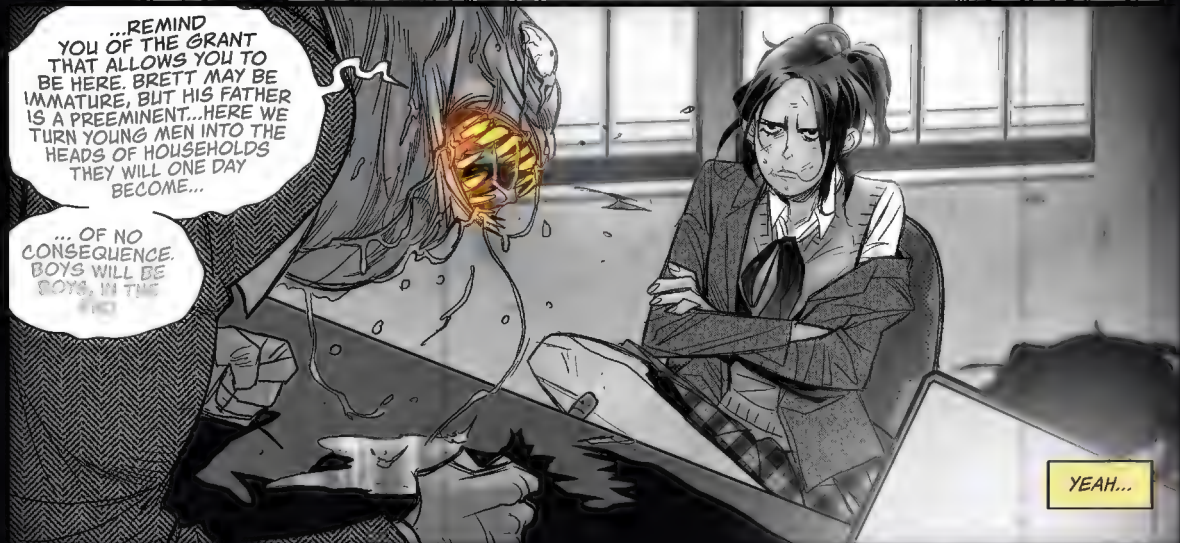


AND SOMETIMES,
YOU GOTTA COME
UP WITH A SET
OF YOUR OWN.



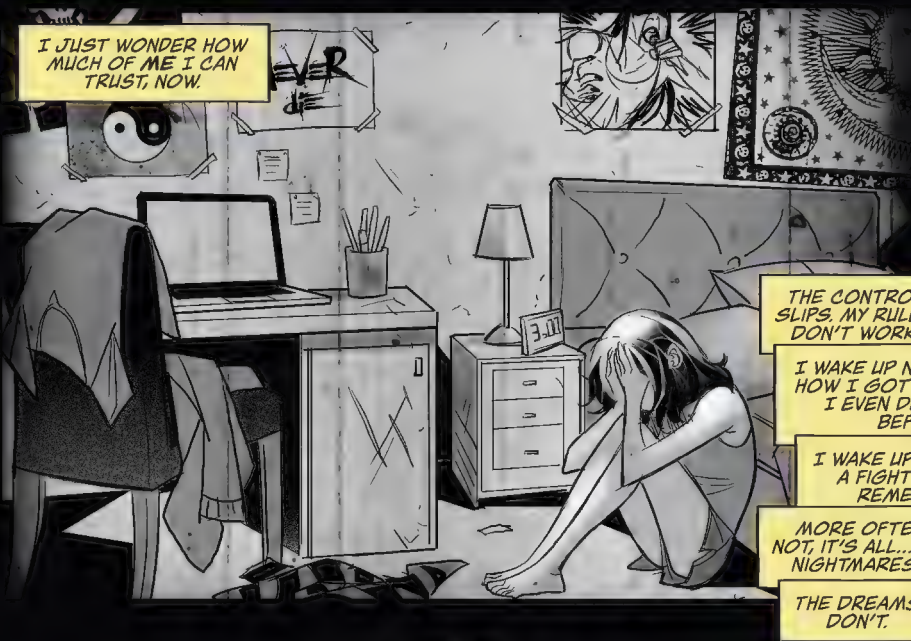
...REMIN
YOU OF THE GRANT
THAT ALLOWS YOU TO
BE HERE. BRETT MAY BE
IMMATURE, BUT HIS FATHER
IS A PREEMINENT...HERE WE
TURN YOUNG MEN INTO THE
HEADS OF HOUSEHOLDS
THEY WILL ONE DAY
BECOME...

... OF NO
CONSEQUENCE.
BOYS WILL BE
BOYS, IN THE
END



YEAH...

...AND I'LL
BE ME.



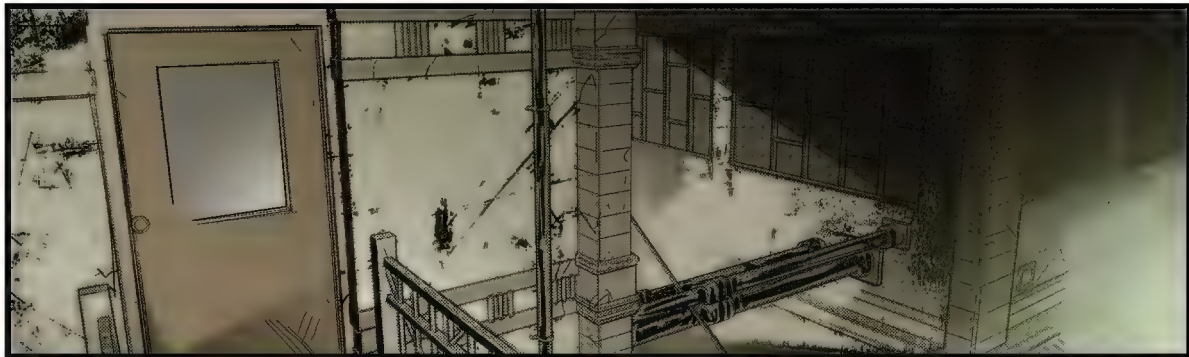


FACES. NAMES. ALL THE THINGS I DON'T WANNA
REMEMBER GOT NO PROBLEM STICKING
AROUND. EVERYTHING ELSE IS JUST
SOMETHING I CAN'T HOLD ONTO.

MOVIE OR MEMORY?

DON'T KNOW
THE ANSWER.

DID I EVER KNOW
THEM? DID I JUST
SEE THEIR FACES
ON A SCREEN?



THERE'S MORE
TO THIS, THERE'S
SOMETHING...

I MEAN,
LOOK--



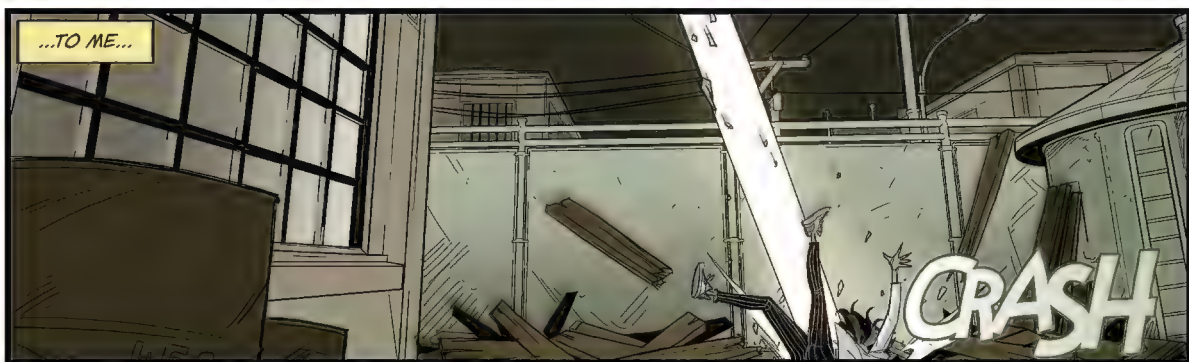
...HAPPENING...

"DON'T
PICK FIGHTS
YOU CAN'T WIN"
NEVER HELD MUCH
GROUND WITH
ME EITHER,
BUDDY--

--BUT THIS
IS IT? THIS ALL
YOU GOT?
SERIOUSLY?

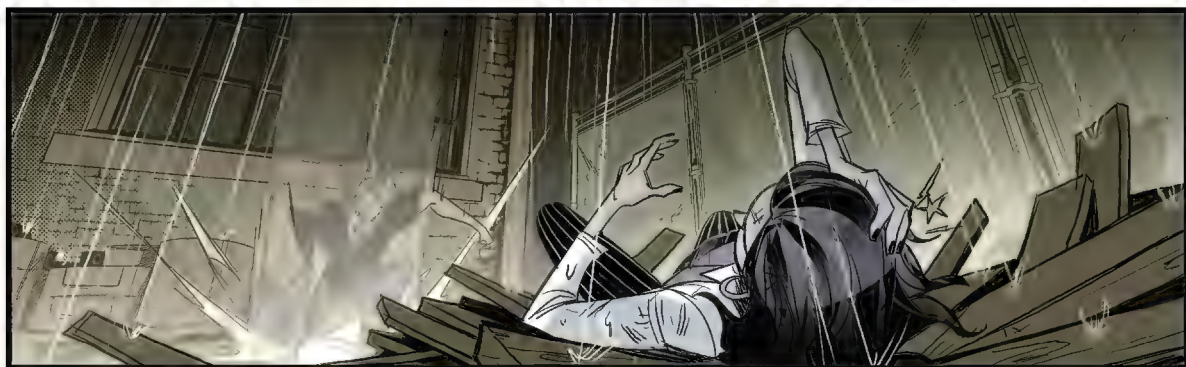


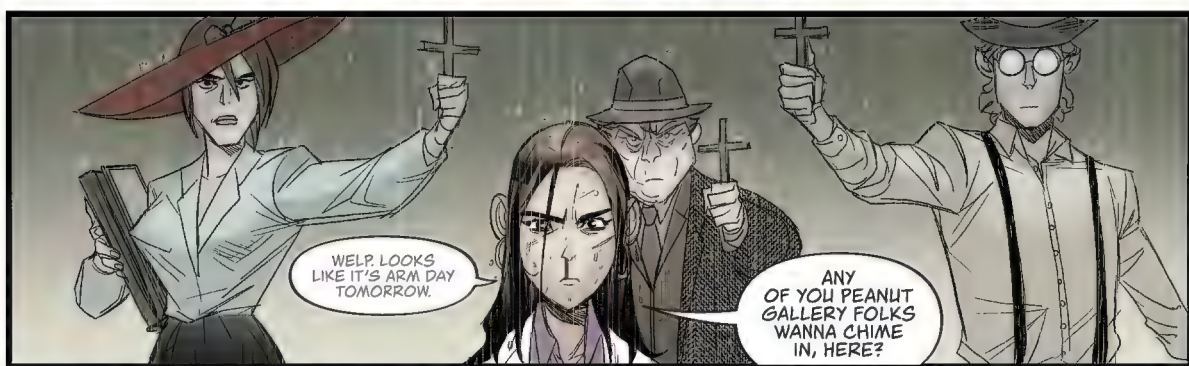
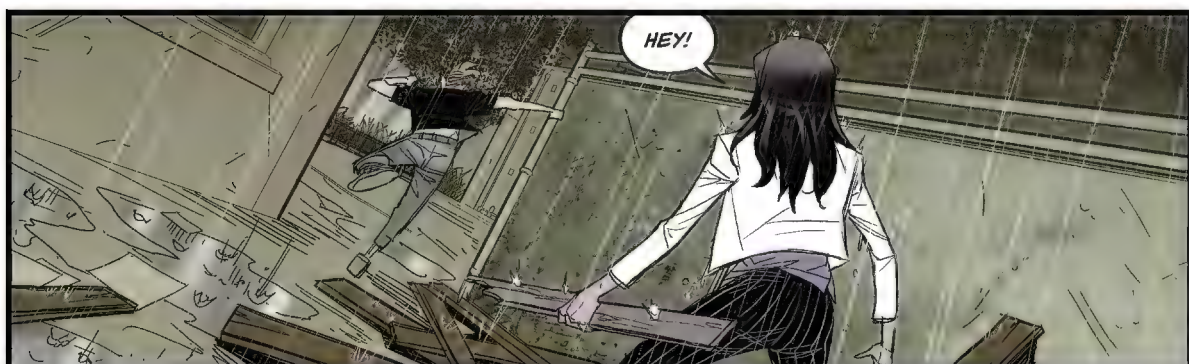
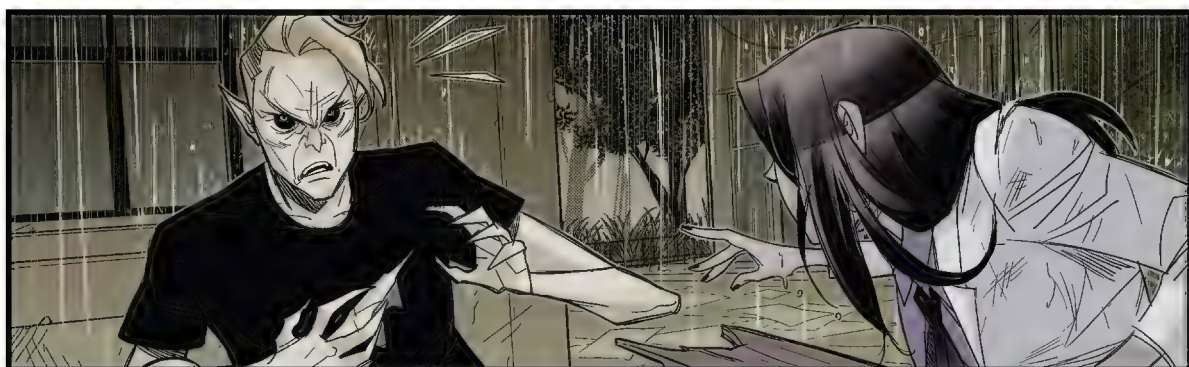
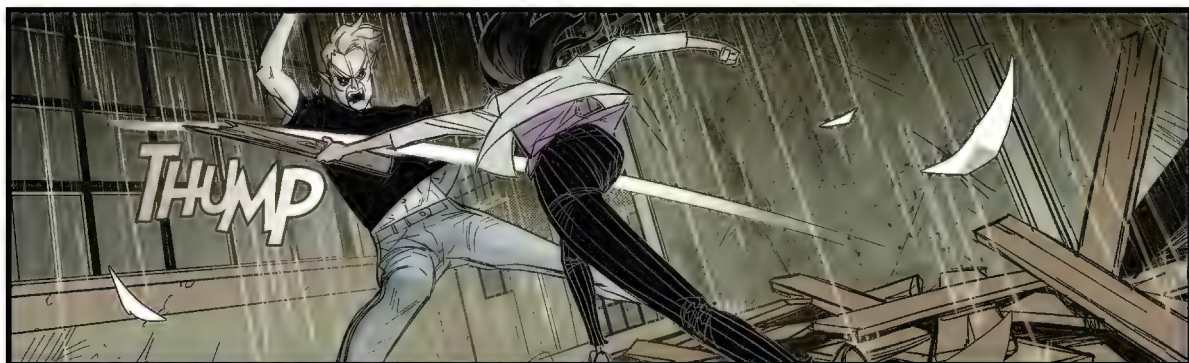
--AH!

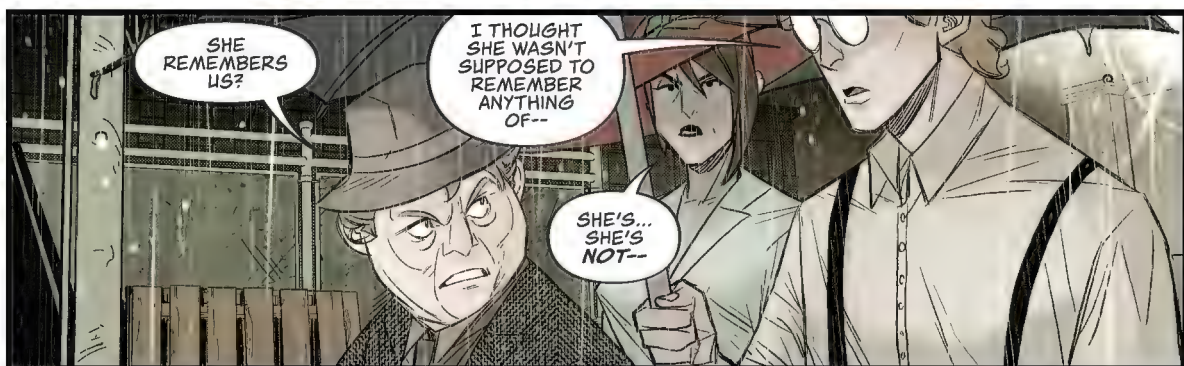
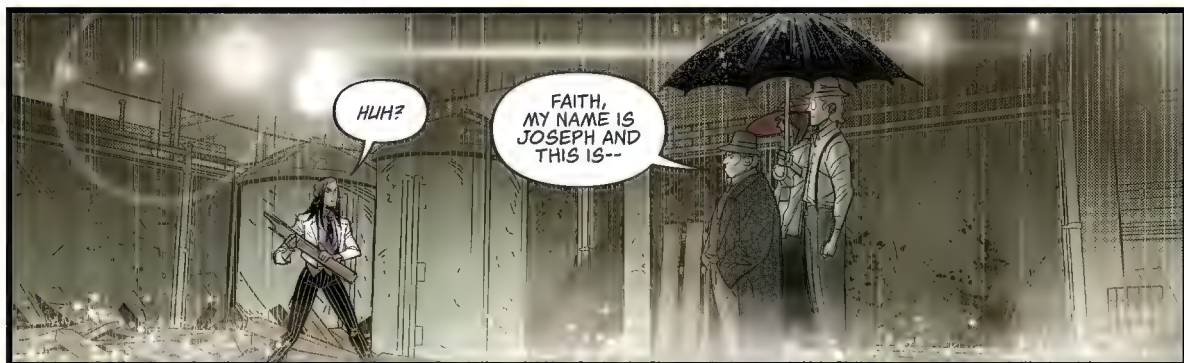
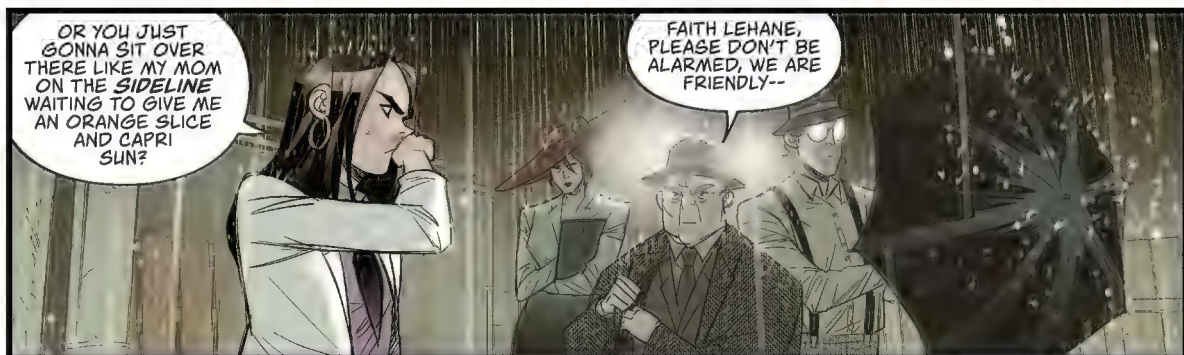


...TO ME...

CRASH









HEY, WHAT'S THE MYSTERY HERE? ACTUALLY, Y'KNOW WHAT, I CAN ACE THIS ONE, I'LL PLAY--

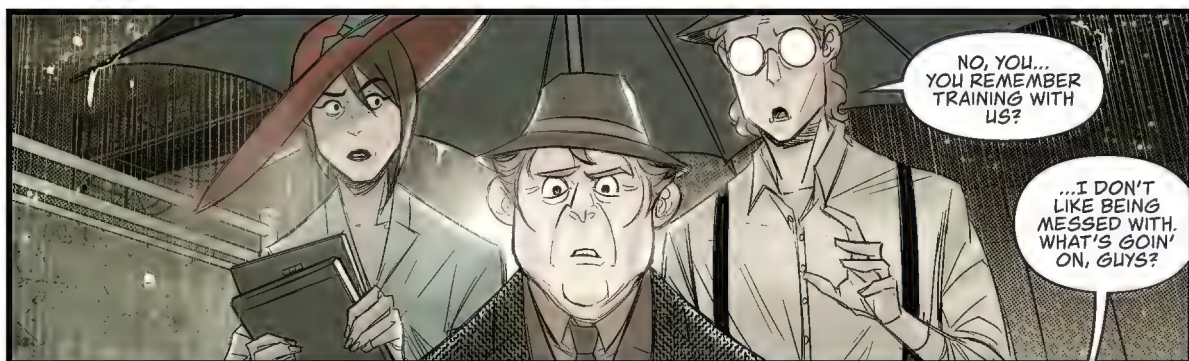
MOM'S HAD A RED BARON THREE DAYS IN A ROW NOW, BRUISES LOST LIKE EVERY YEAR, PATS WON LIKE ALWAYS.

I WORK AT THE VISTA ON WINTER STREET, HAVIN' THE BEST TIME OF MY WHOLE ENTIRE LIFE SERVING UP ROOT BEER AND REDEN-BACHER--



--BEFORE YOU ALL SHOWED UP AND TOLD ME I'M ONE OF A HUNDRED OR WHATEVER NEXT-IN-LINE VAMPIRE FIGHTER AND I'M JUST DOIN' MY BEST TO KEEP THE HELL UP, HERE, ON LESSON...FOUR? FIVE?

CHASED THAT LITTLE BLOOD-HUNGRY GOPHER DOWN FROM PENTUCKET CEMETERY--



NO, YOU... YOU REMEMBER TRAINING WITH US?

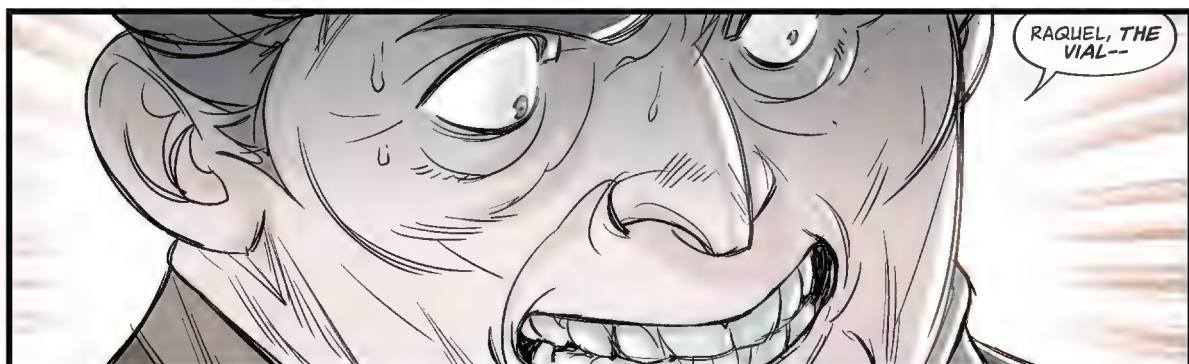
...I DON'T LIKE BEING MESSED WITH. WHAT'S GOIN' ON, GUYS?



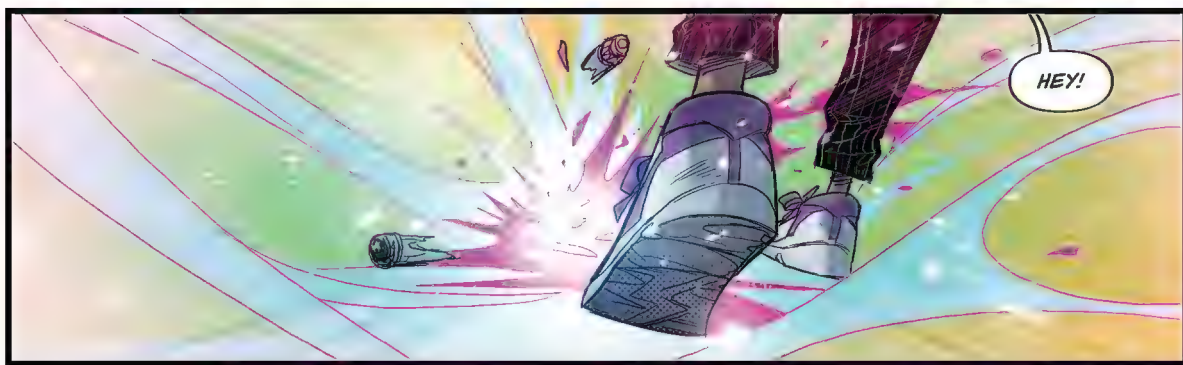
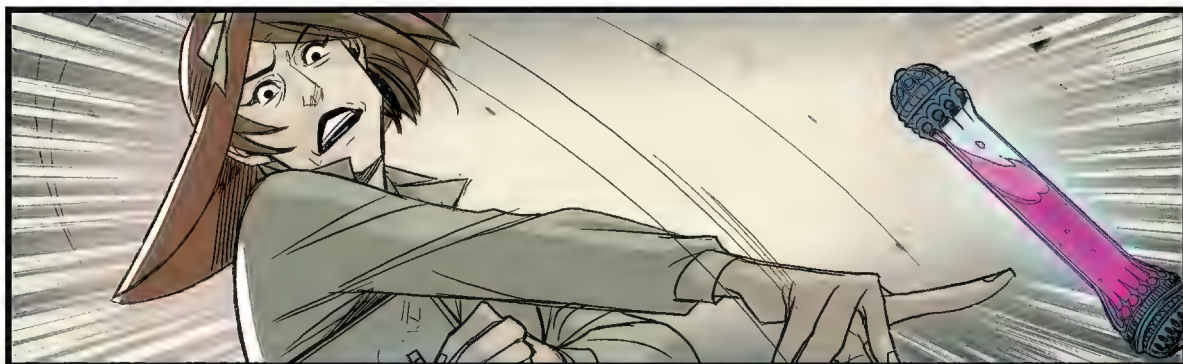
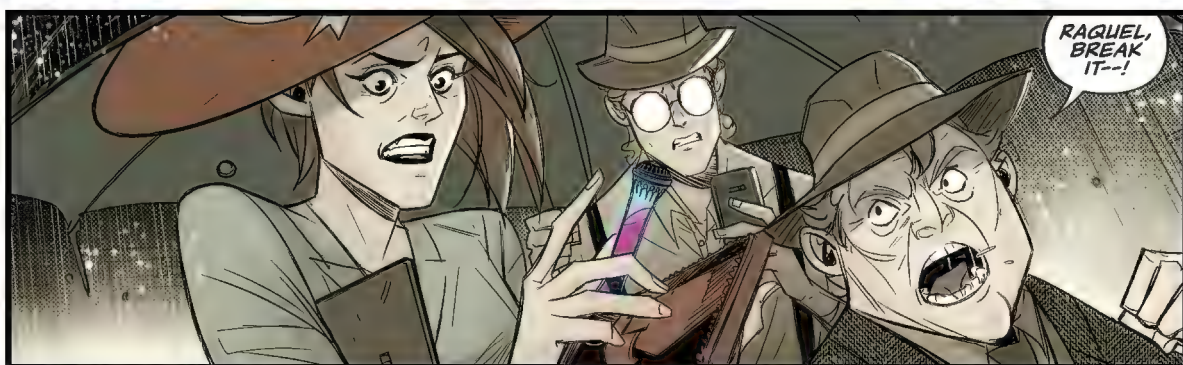
RAQUEL, WHAT HAPPENED?

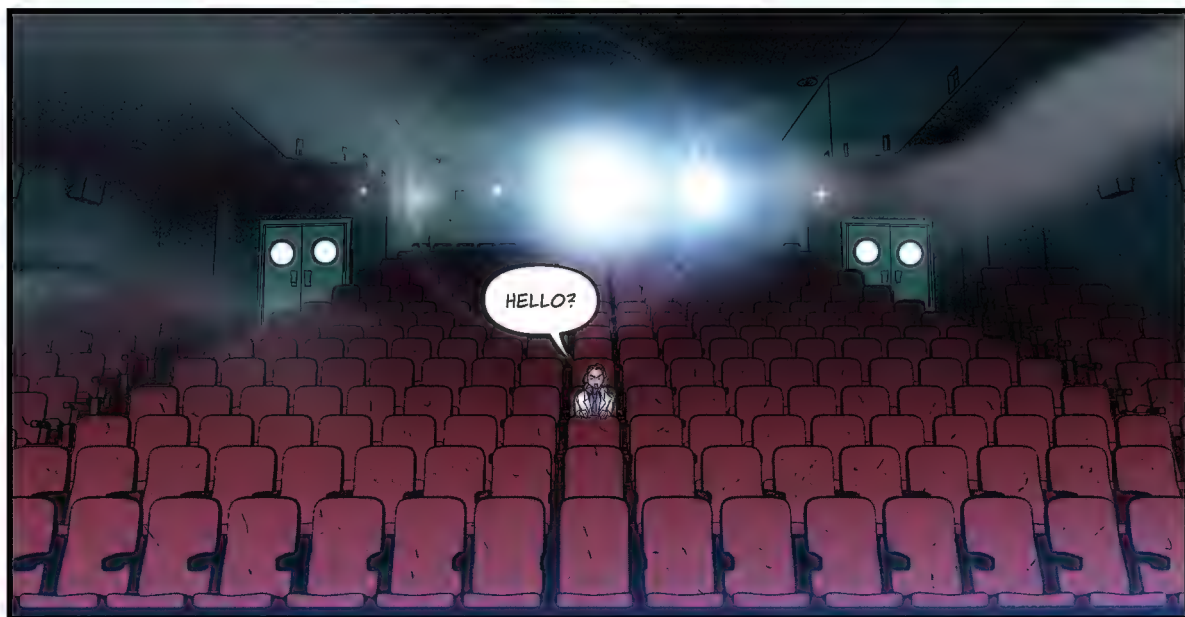
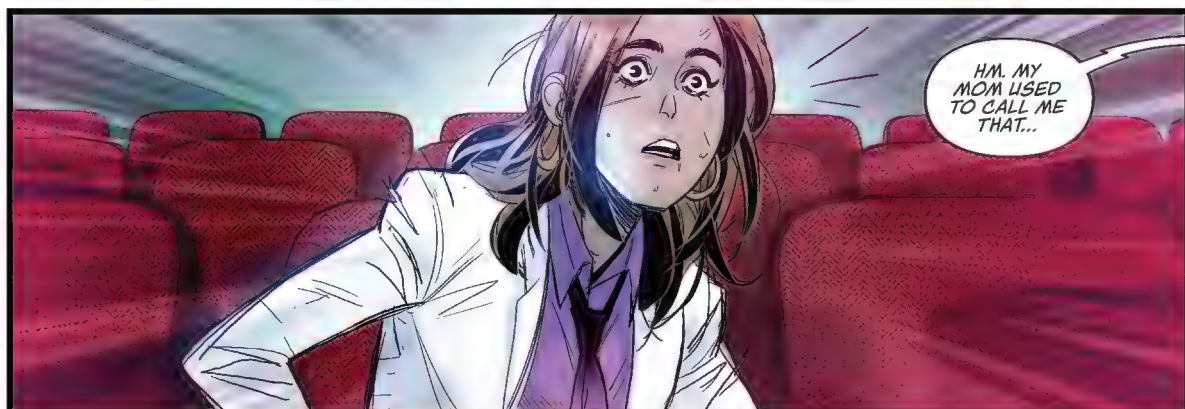
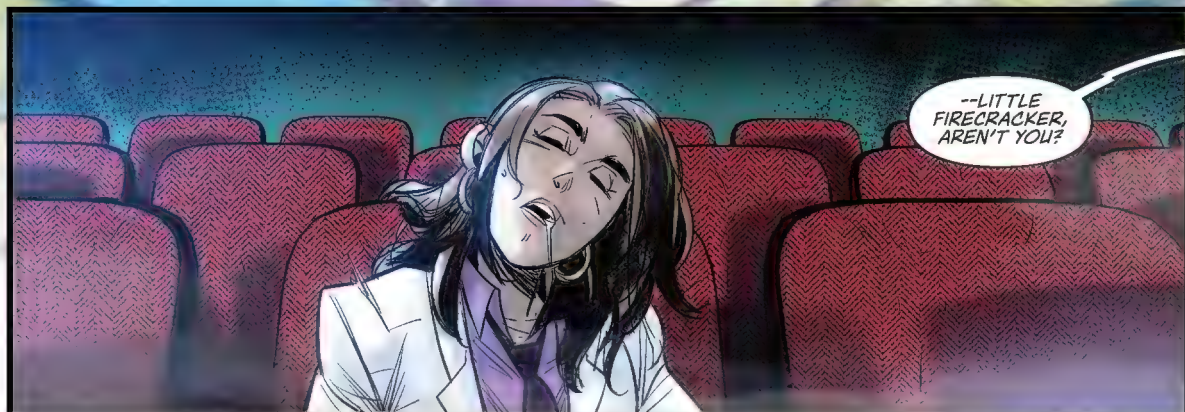
I THOUGHT THEY PERFORMED THE RITUAL AGAIN THIS MORNING?

THEY DID I DON'T... I DON'T KNOW WHY...



RAQUEL, THE VIAL--







LOOK, DON'T GET ME WRONG, I'D RATHER BE IN THE THEATER THAN ANYWHERE NEAR THE APARTMENT, BUT THIS IS...

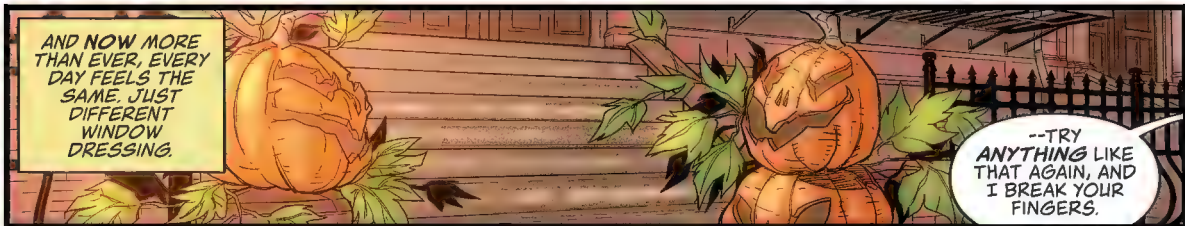


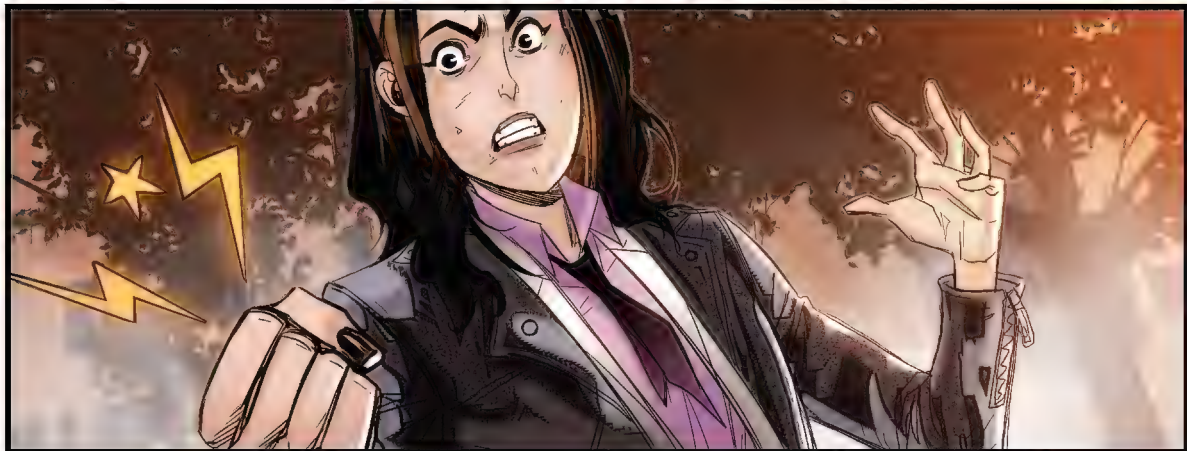
IT'S LIKE EVERYTHING IS...LIKE SOMEONE ELSE TAKES OVER FOR ME HALFWAY THROUGH THE DAY AND DOES WHATEVER THE HELL, AND BRINGS ME BACK HERE, PLOP, START THE SAME, WICKED WEIRD MOVIE I NEVER FINISH. I DON'T KNOW HOW TO STOP IT.

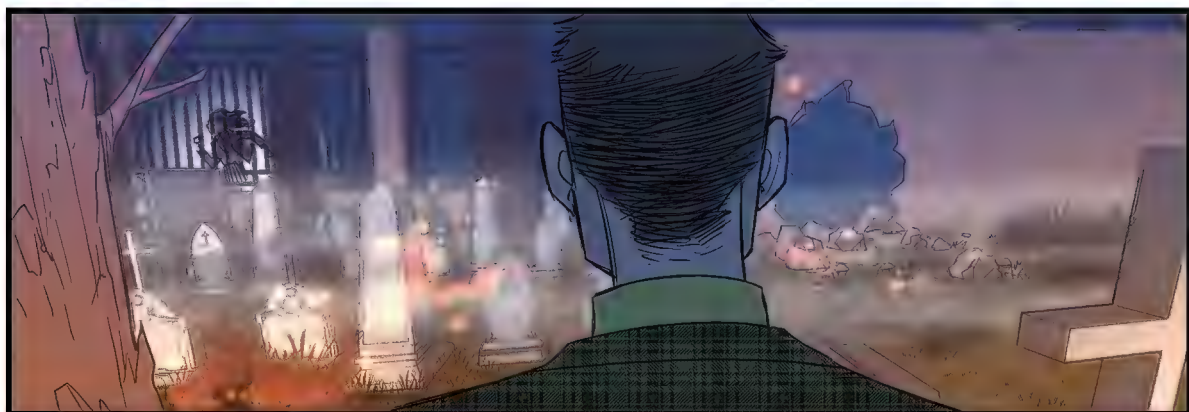
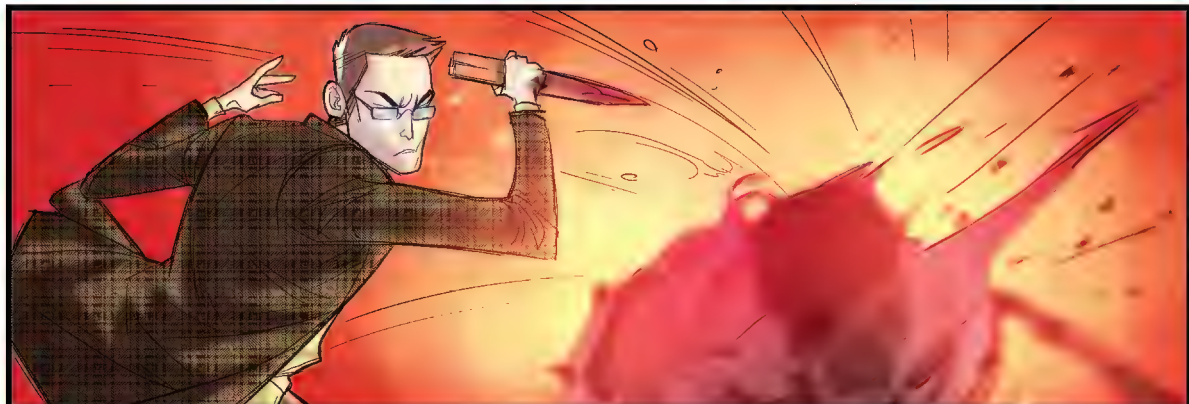
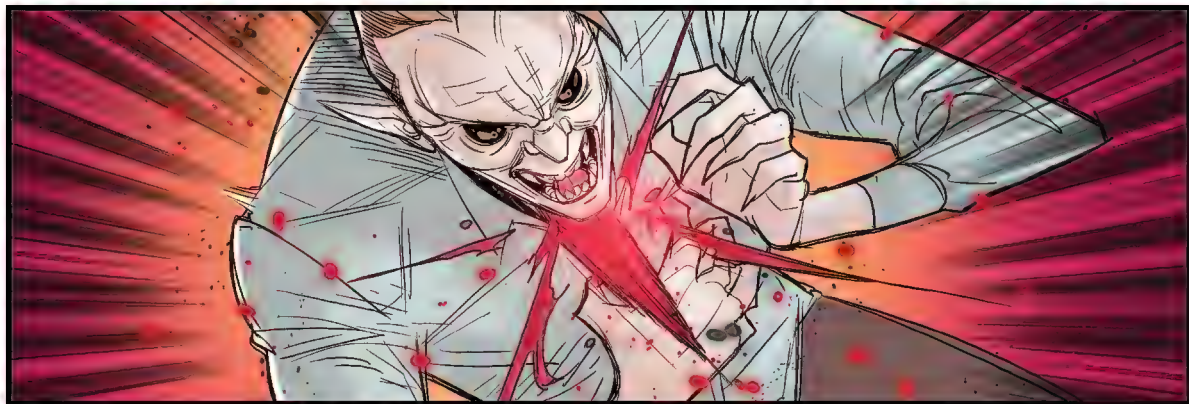


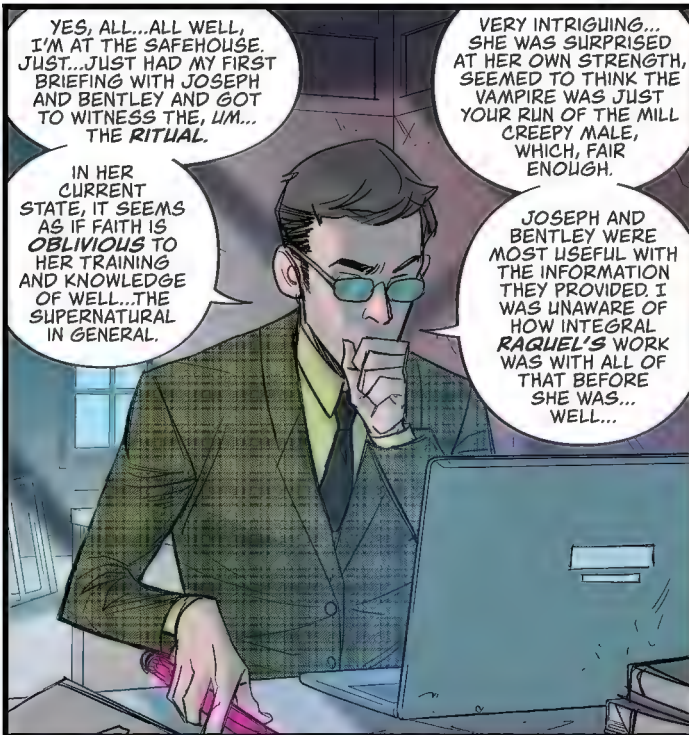
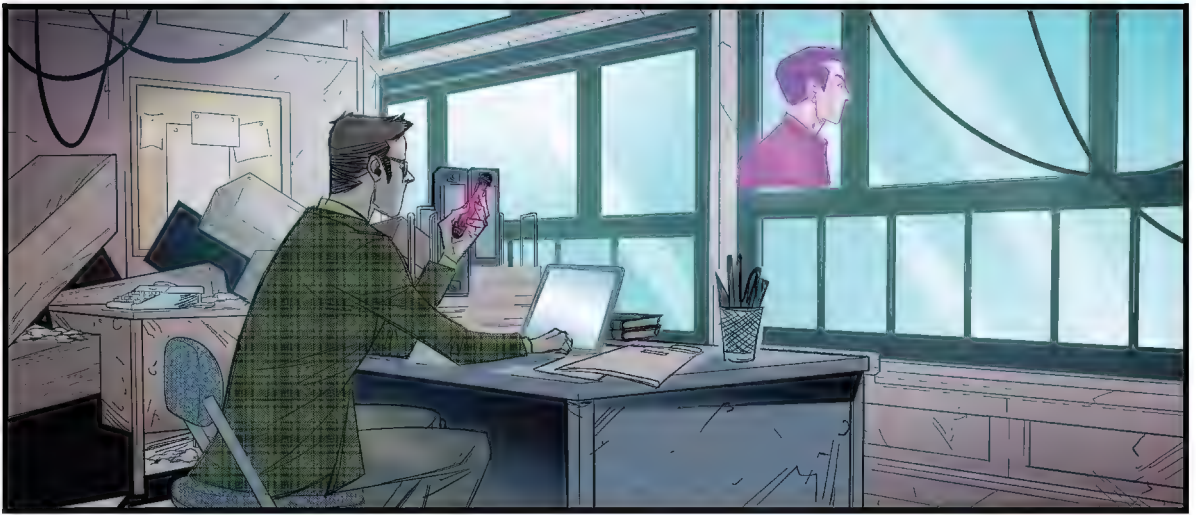
A THOUSAND THOUGHTS, HALFWAY THERE, HAZY MEMORIES AND I DON'T KNOW IF THEY'RE...YOU KNOW, MINE, IF THEY'RE REAL.

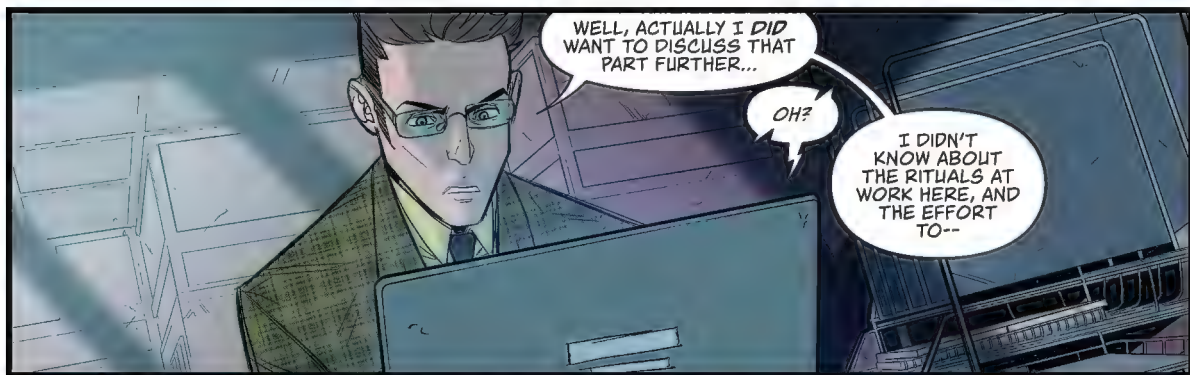








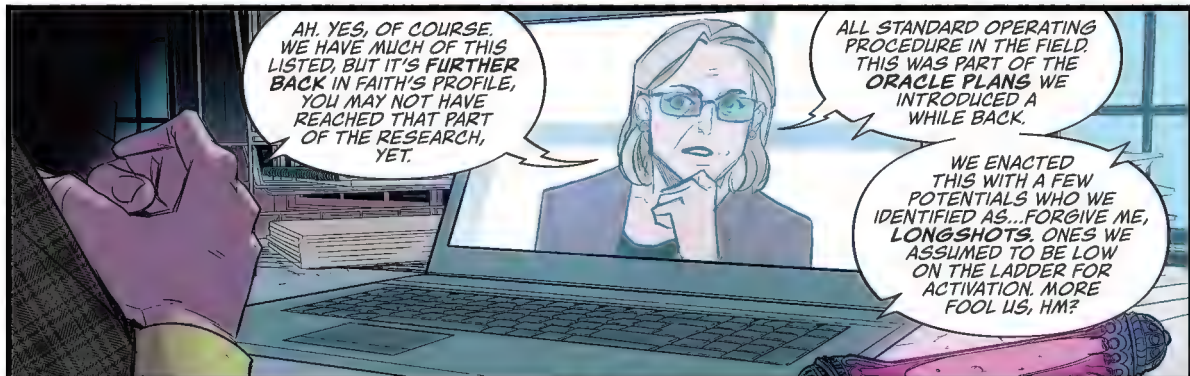




WELL, ACTUALLY I **DID** WANT TO DISCUSS THAT PART FURTHER...

OH?

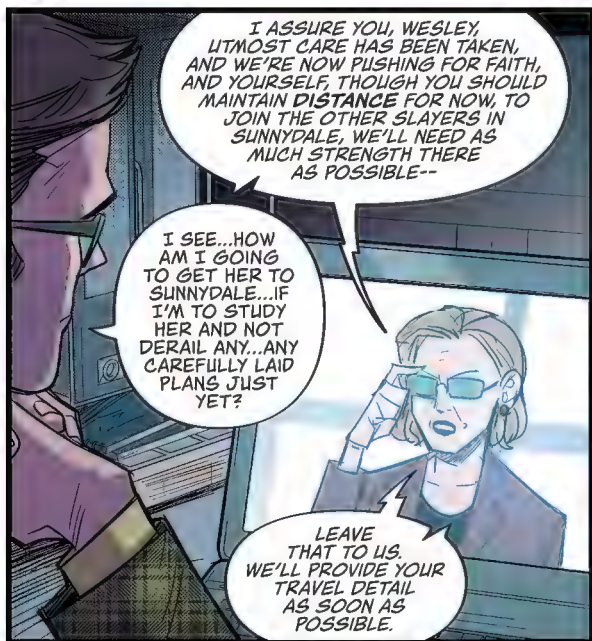
I DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT THE RITUALS AT WORK HERE, AND THE EFFORT TO--



AH, YES, OF COURSE. WE HAVE MUCH OF THIS LISTED, BUT IT'S **FURTHER BACK** IN FAITH'S PROFILE, YOU MAY NOT HAVE REACHED THAT PART OF THE RESEARCH, YET.

ALL STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE IN THE FIELD. THIS WAS PART OF THE **ORACLE PLANS** WE INTRODUCED A WHILE BACK.

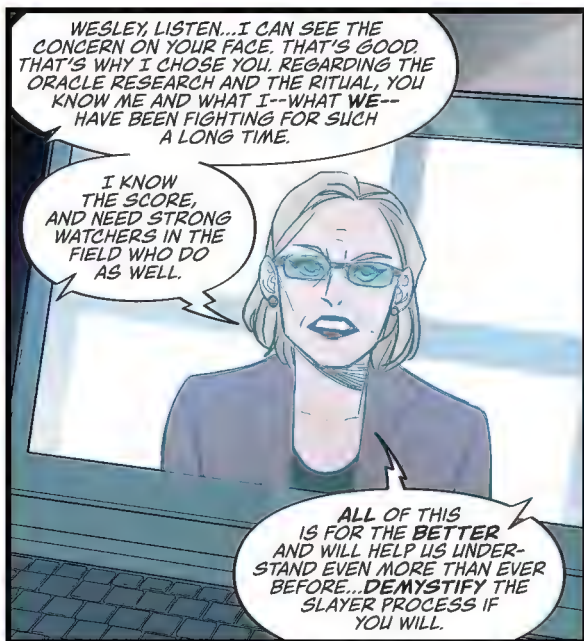
WE ENACTED THIS WITH A FEW POTENTIALS WHO WE IDENTIFIED AS...**FORGIVE ME, LONGSHOTS**. ONES WE ASSUMED TO BE LOW ON THE LADDER FOR ACTIVATION. MORE FOOL US, HM?



I ASSURE YOU, WESLEY, **UTMOST** CARE HAS BEEN TAKEN, AND WE'RE NOW PUSHING FOR FAITH, AND YOURSELF, THOUGH YOU SHOULD MAINTAIN **DISTANCE** FOR NOW, TO JOIN THE OTHER SLAYERS IN SUNNYDALE, WE'LL NEED AS MUCH STRENGTH THERE AS POSSIBLE--

I SEE...HOW AM I GOING TO GET HER TO SUNNYDALE...IF I'M TO STUDY HER AND NOT DERAIL ANY...ANY CAREFULLY LAID PLANS JUST YET?

LEAVE THAT TO US. WE'LL PROVIDE YOUR TRAVEL DETAIL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.



WESLEY, LISTEN...I CAN SEE THE CONCERN ON YOUR FACE. THAT'S GOOD. THAT'S WHY I CHOSE YOU. REGARDING THE ORACLE RESEARCH AND THE RITUAL, YOU KNOW ME AND WHAT I--WHAT WE--HAVE BEEN FIGHTING FOR SUCH A LONG TIME.

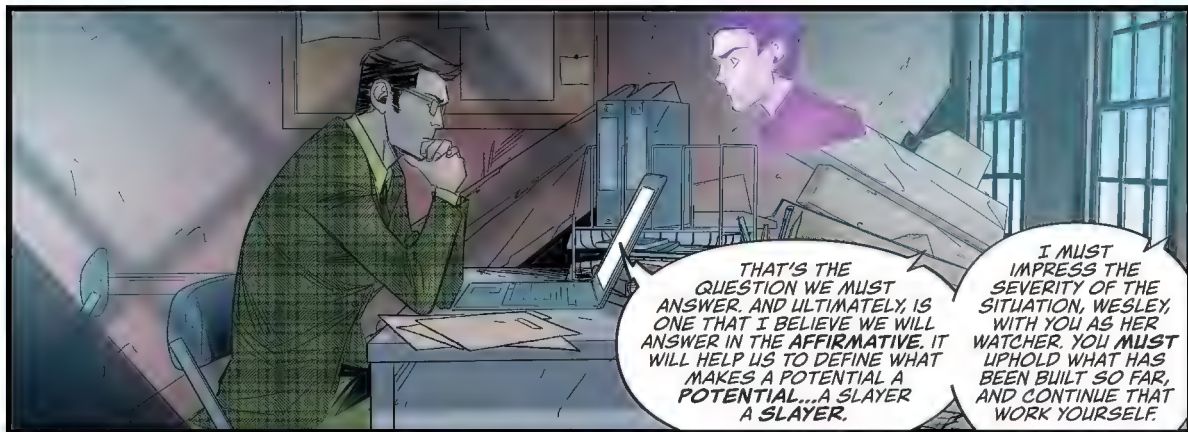
I KNOW THE SCORE, AND NEED STRONG WATCHERS IN THE FIELD WHO DO AS WELL.

ALL OF THIS IS FOR THE **BETTER** AND WILL HELP US UNDERSTAND EVEN MORE THAN EVER BEFORE...**DEMYSTIFY** THE SLAYER PROCESS IF YOU WILL.



IT FUNCTIONS ON THE IDEA IF YOU TAKE AWAY ALL THE THINGS THAT COMPROMISE A **GOOD SLAYER**...ATTACHMENTS, EMOTION, ALL THE DISTRACTIONS AND, FRANKLY, **CRUELITIES** OF A LIFE THEY COULD NEVER HAVE...DOES IT MAKE A **BETTER ONE**?

A **BETTER** VERSION OF WHAT THEY TRULY ARE, OUR **BEST SOLDIER**? **BEST WEAPON**?



THAT'S THE QUESTION WE MUST ANSWER. AND ULTIMATELY, IS ONE THAT I BELIEVE WE WILL ANSWER IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. IT WILL HELP US TO DEFINE WHAT MAKES A POTENTIAL A SLAYER.

I MUST IMPRESS THE SEVERITY OF THE SITUATION, WESLEY, WITH YOU AS HER WATCHER. YOU **MUST** UPHOLD WHAT HAS BEEN BUILT SO FAR, AND CONTINUE THAT WORK YOURSELF.



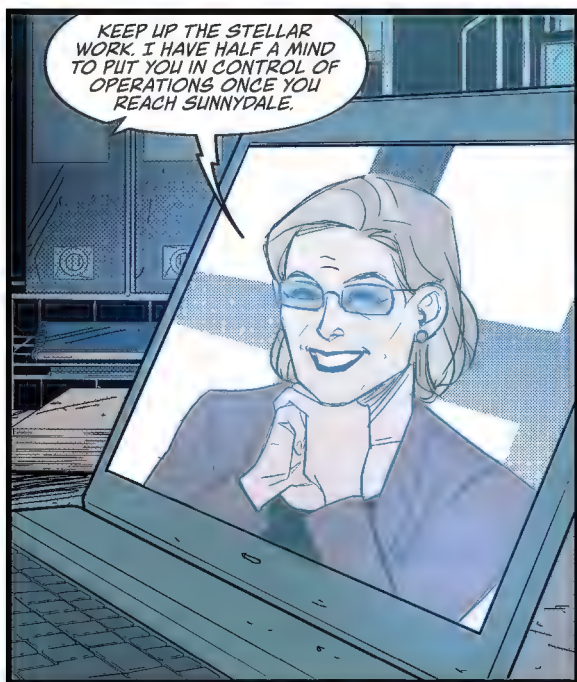
WE STAND ON THE BRINK, AND WE'RE THE ONLY LINE OF DEFENSE LEFT IN THE WORLD.

I...I UNDERSTAND, OF COURSE. I WON'T LET YOU DOWN.



VERY GOOD. AND WESLEY?

YES?



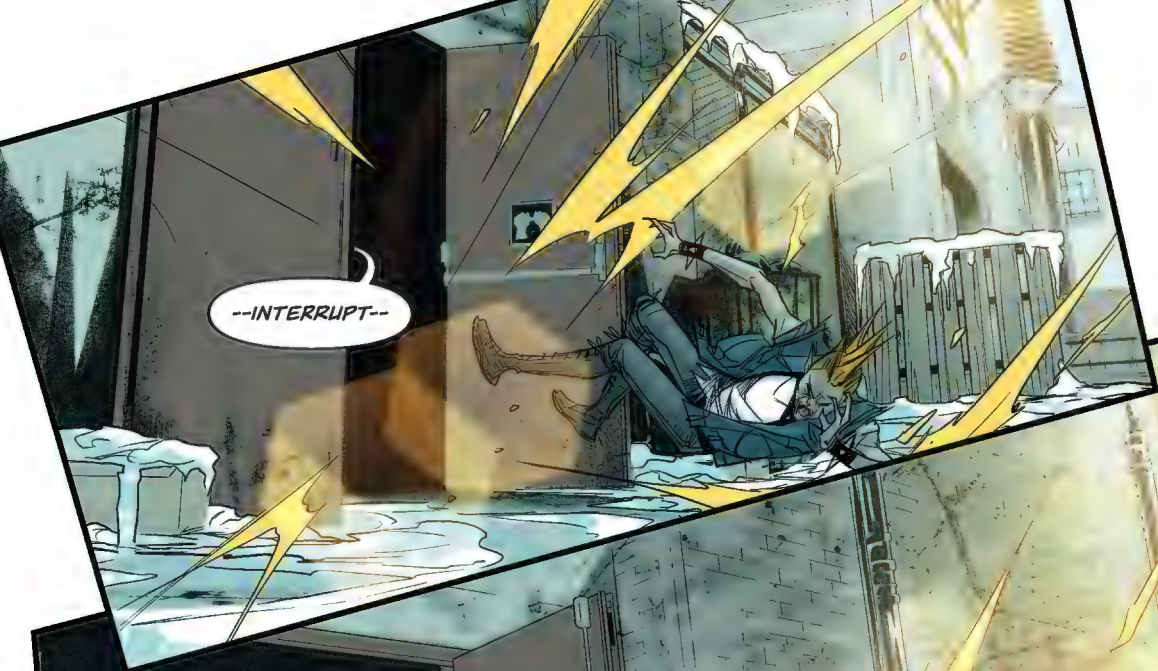
KEEP UP THE STELLAR WORK. I HAVE HALF A MIND TO PUT YOU IN CONTROL OF OPERATIONS ONCE YOU REACH SUNNYDALE.

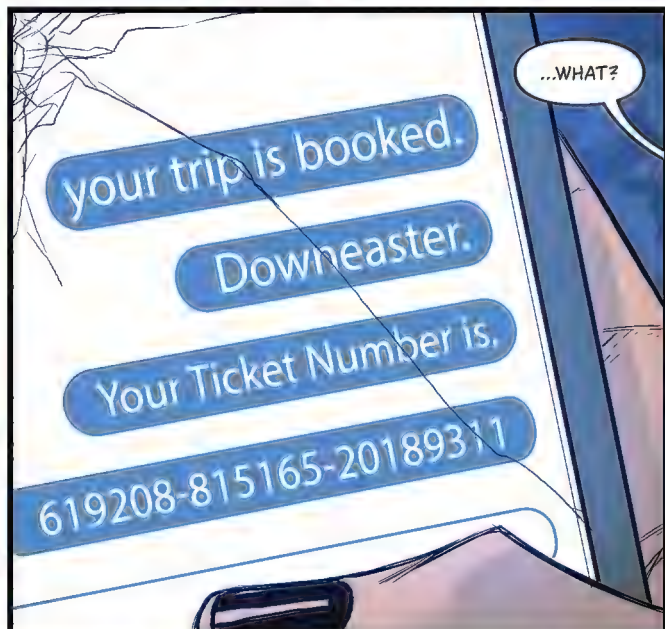


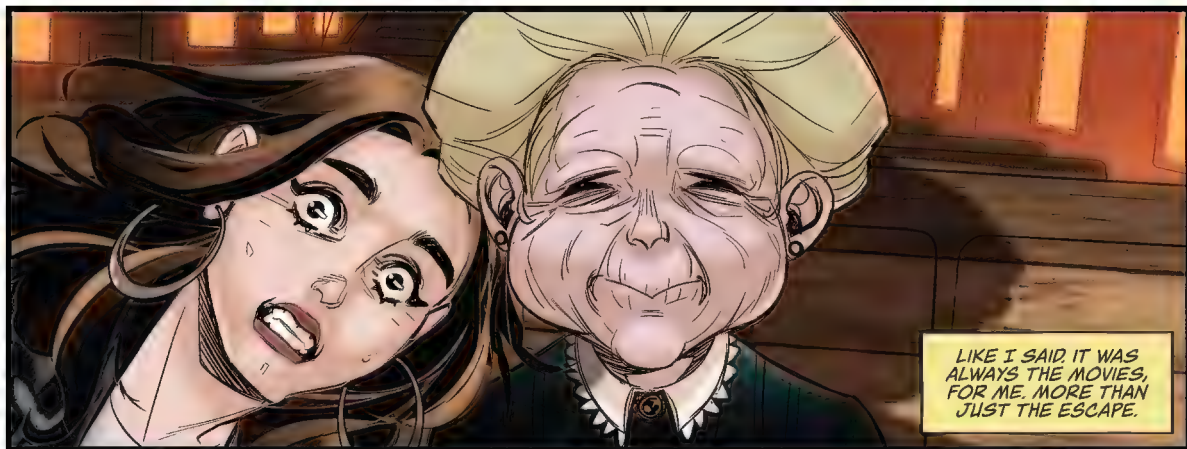
TH...THANK YOU, MADAM, THAT'S... THAT WOULD BE SUCH AN HONOR.





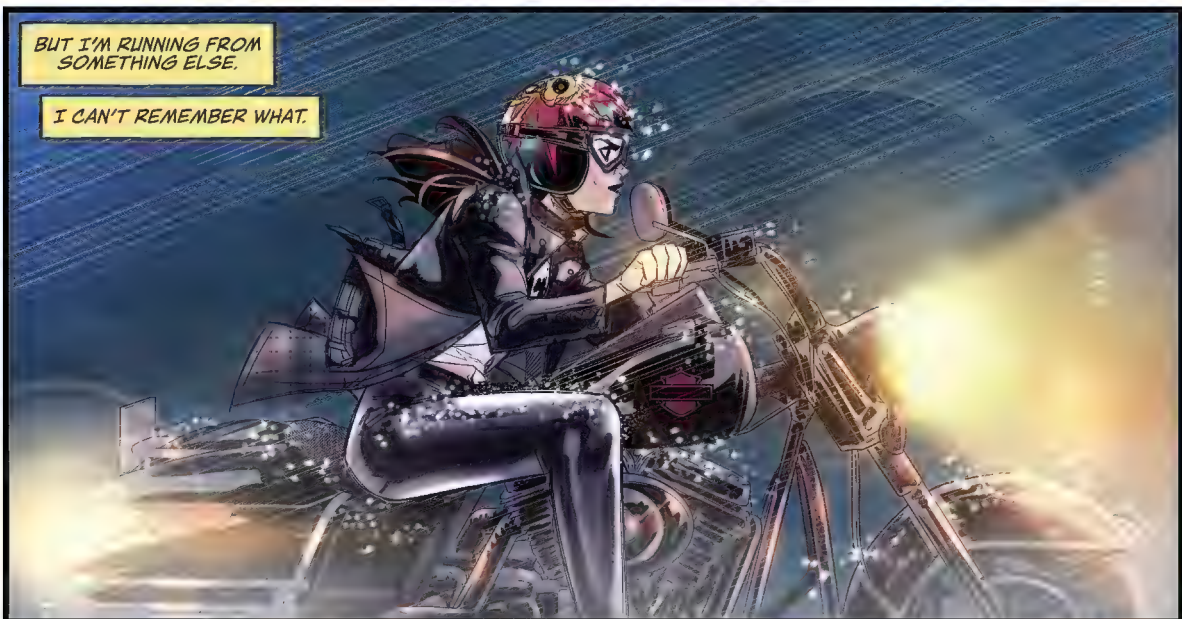








HOME WAS
NEVER HOME.



BUT I'M RUNNING FROM
SOMETHING ELSE.

I CAN'T REMEMBER WHAT.



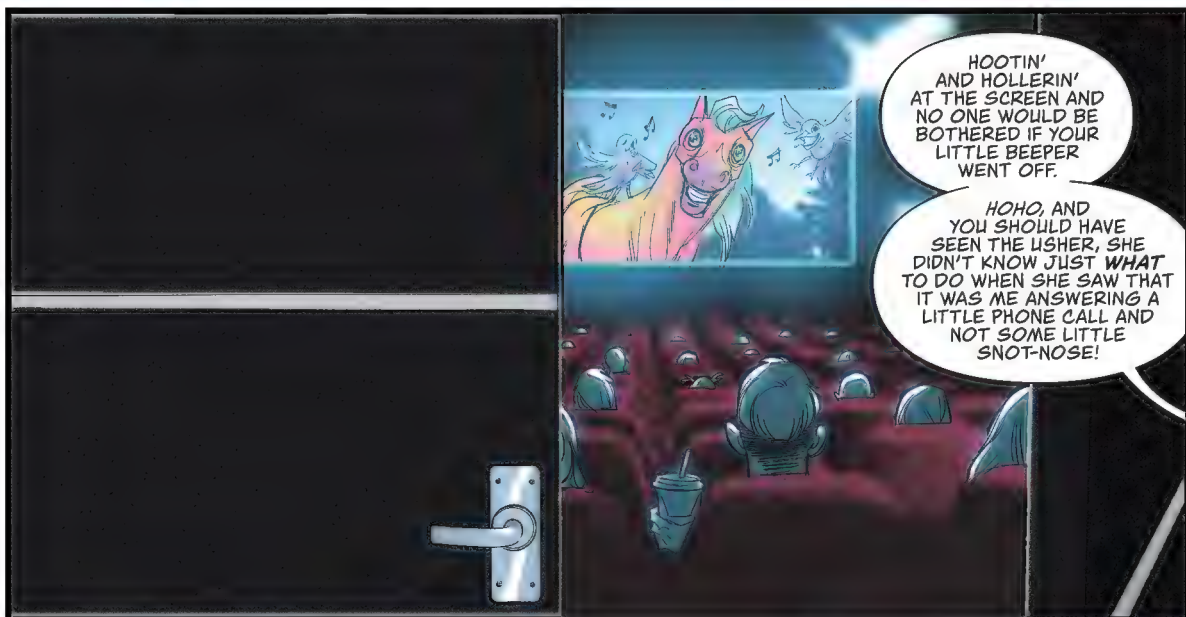
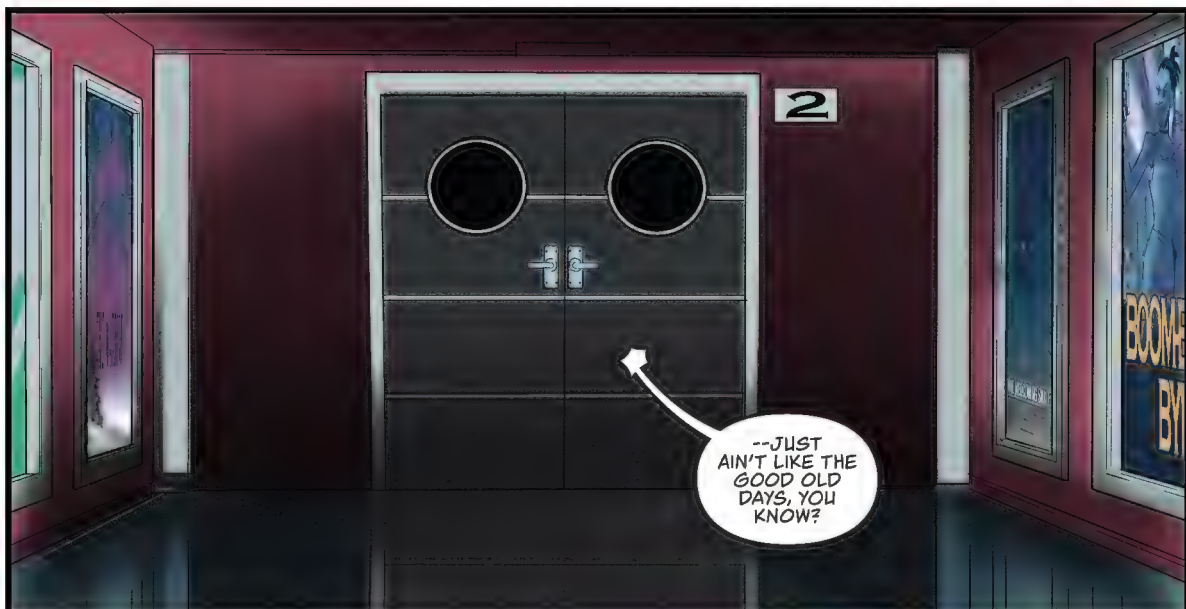
BUT I GOT AN
IDEA OF WHERE
TO GO.

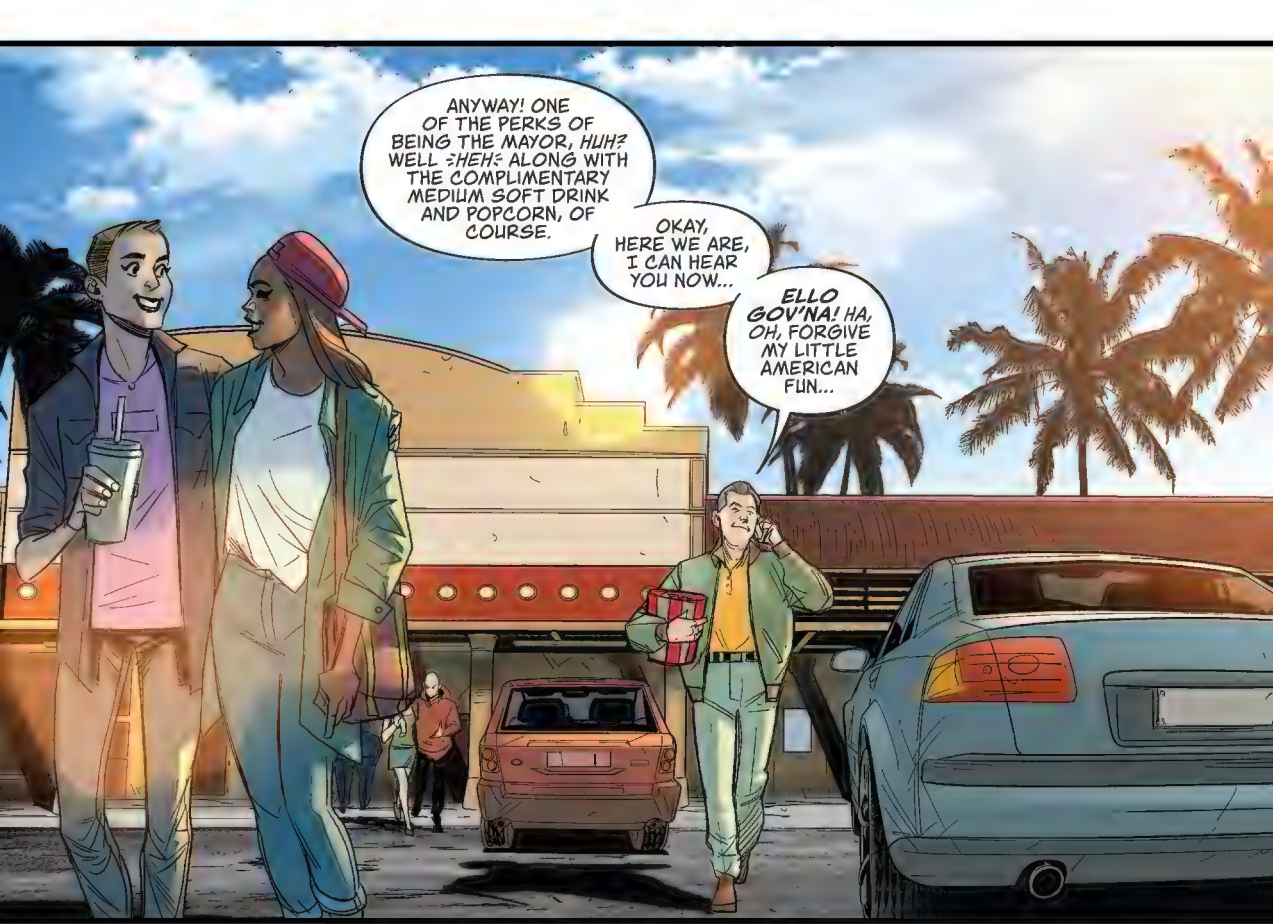
STILL. IT'S TIMES LIKE
THIS I WONDER...

DID IT EVER
START?



WAS THERE ANYTHING
PLAYING AT ALL?

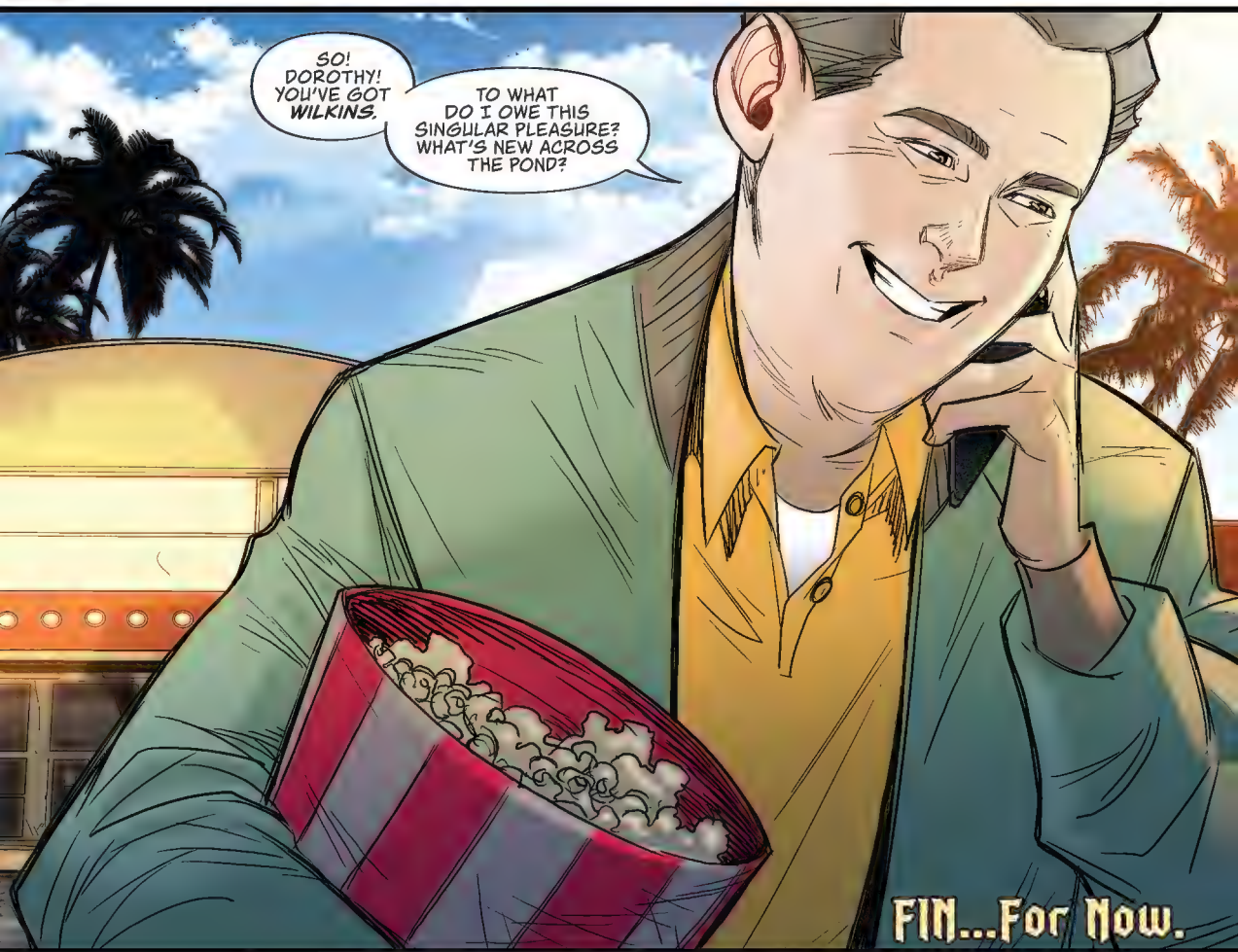




ANYWAY! ONE OF THE PERKS OF BEING THE MAYOR, HUH? WELL ~~HEH~~ ALONG WITH THE COMPLIMENTARY MEDIUM SOFT DRINK AND POPCORN, OF COURSE.

OKAY, HERE WE ARE, I CAN HEAR YOU NOW...

ELLO GOV'NA! HA, OH, FORGIVE MY LITTLE AMERICAN FUN...



SO! DOROTHY! YOU'VE GOT WILKINS.

TO WHAT DO I OWE THIS SINGULAR PLEASURE? WHAT'S NEW ACROSS THE POND?

FIN...For Now.





COVER GALLERY





Issue Twenty One Main Cover by **David López**



BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER
Nº 21

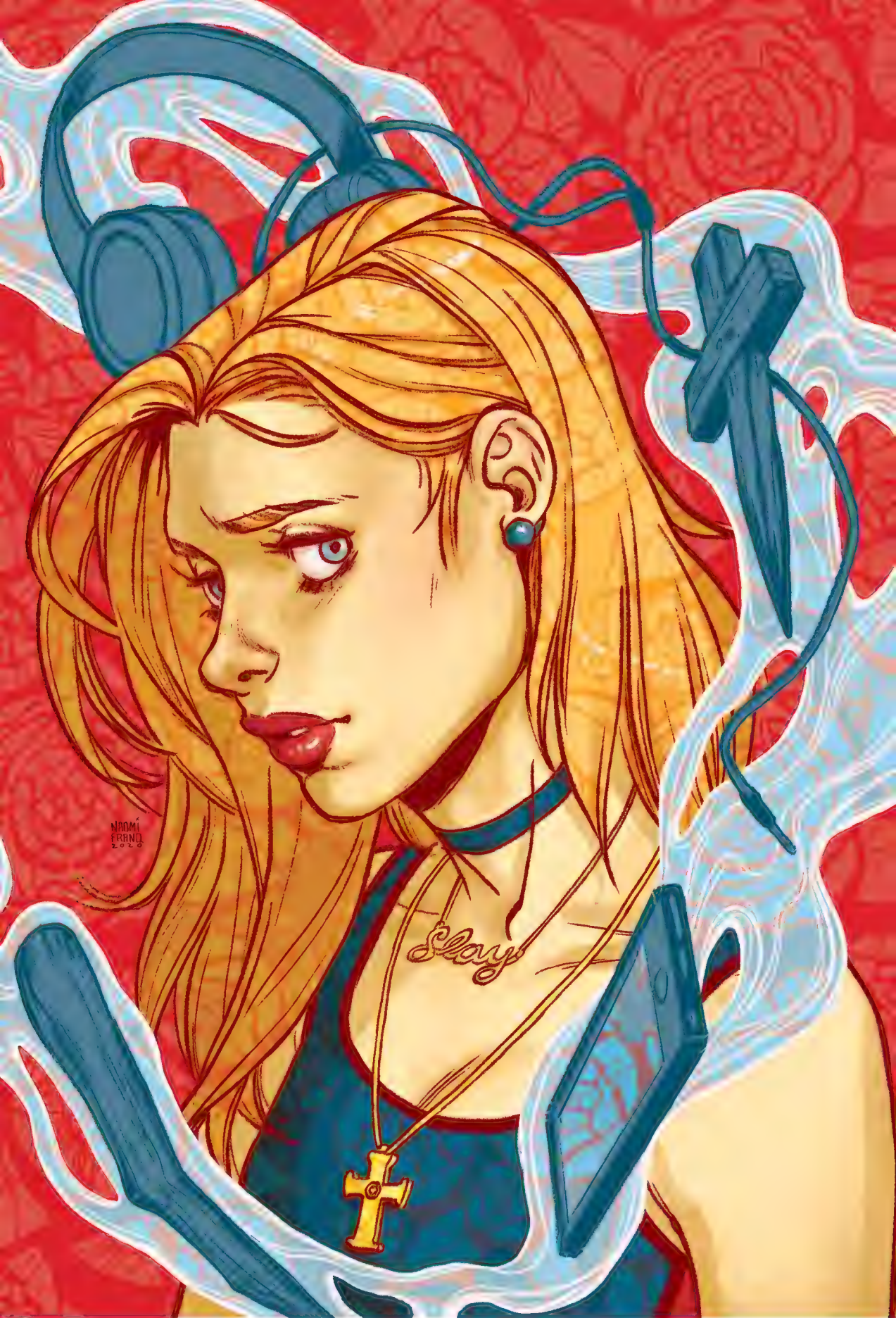


issue 22

BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER







Issue Twenty Two Variant Cover by **Naomi Franquiz**



Issue Twenty One Incentive Cover by **David López**



DAVID
LOPEZ



Buffy the Vampire Slayer: Faith Special Main Cover by **Kevin Wada**



Buffy the Vampire Slayer: Faith Special Variant Cover by **Joe Quinones**

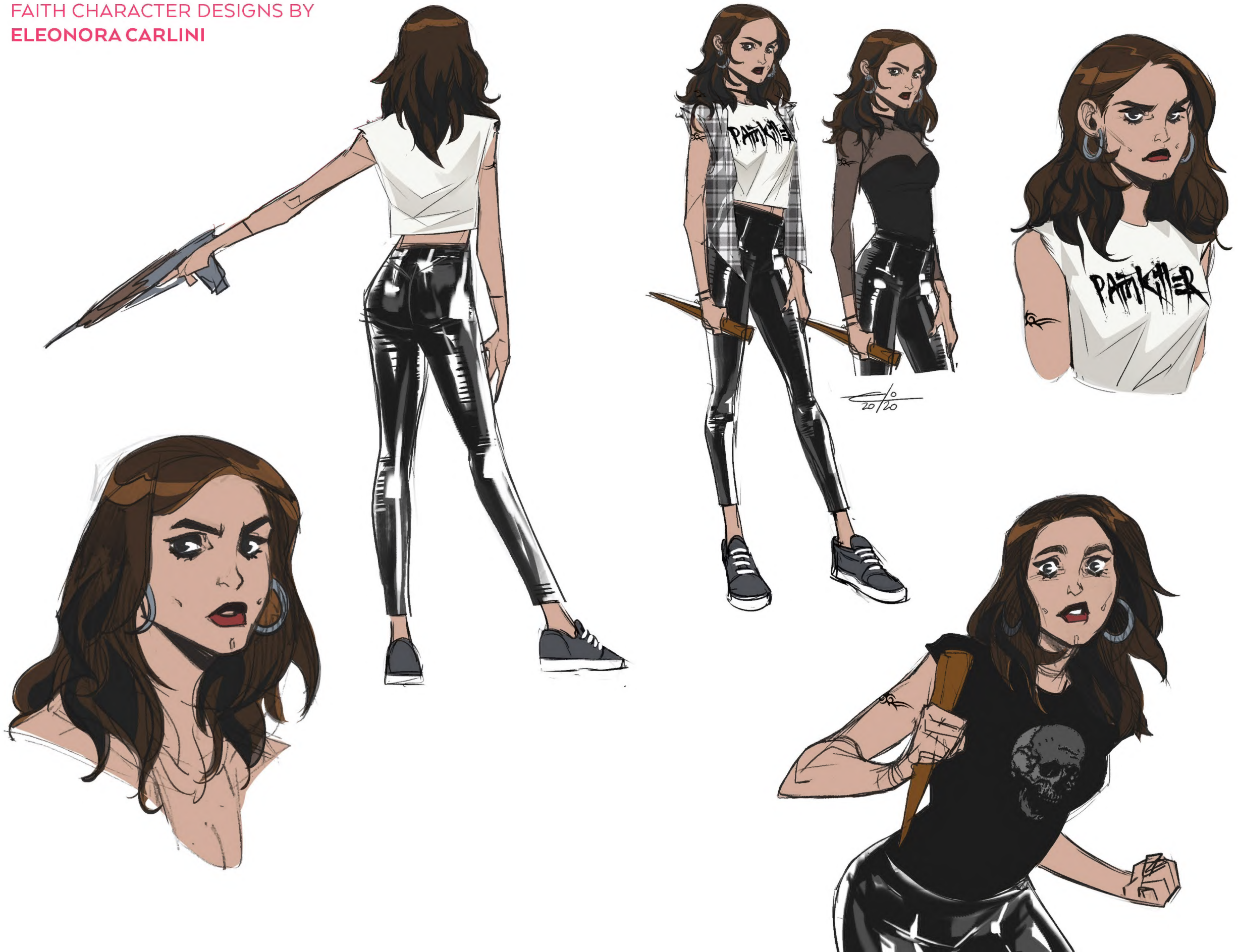


Buffy the Vampire Slayer: Faith Special Variant Cover by Dani with colors by Tamra Bonvillain



Buffy the Vampire Slayer: Faith Special Variant Inks Cover by Joe Quinones

FAITH CHARACTER DESIGNS BY
ELEONORA CARLINI



WHAT ARE THE SECRETS OF THE SLAYERS?

Anya has been a key figure in Buffy's life ever since she arrived in Sunnydale, but there's more to the demon's mission and mysterious past than anyone knows! It starts with her secret connection to the Watcher's Council and... the first full appearance of the Slayer who came before Buffy?

And the truth behind Anya connects Buffy(s) – yes, plural – in ways no one ever saw coming... Plus! Learn the secret truth behind the Slayer known as Faith and where she came from...it's not what you think!

Acclaimed writer Jordie Bellaire & Jeremy Lambert team with artists Andres Genoet & Ramon Bachs to reveal the shocking secrets you – and Buffy – never expected!

Collects *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* #21-22,
Buffy the Vampire Slayer: Faith #1.

"I was blown away by the work by the art team involved."

—*Beyond the Panel*

"This reimagined BtVS has really come into its own, and if you're a fan of the property, you owe it to yourself to give this one a chance."

—*Major Spoilers*

"The origin of one of the best characters from the Buffyverse was always going to be a big deal, but with a few clever ideas Lambert gives us a story which will surprise readers, while still being faithful to her character."

—*Comics: the Gathering*

BOOM!
STUDIOS

20th
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